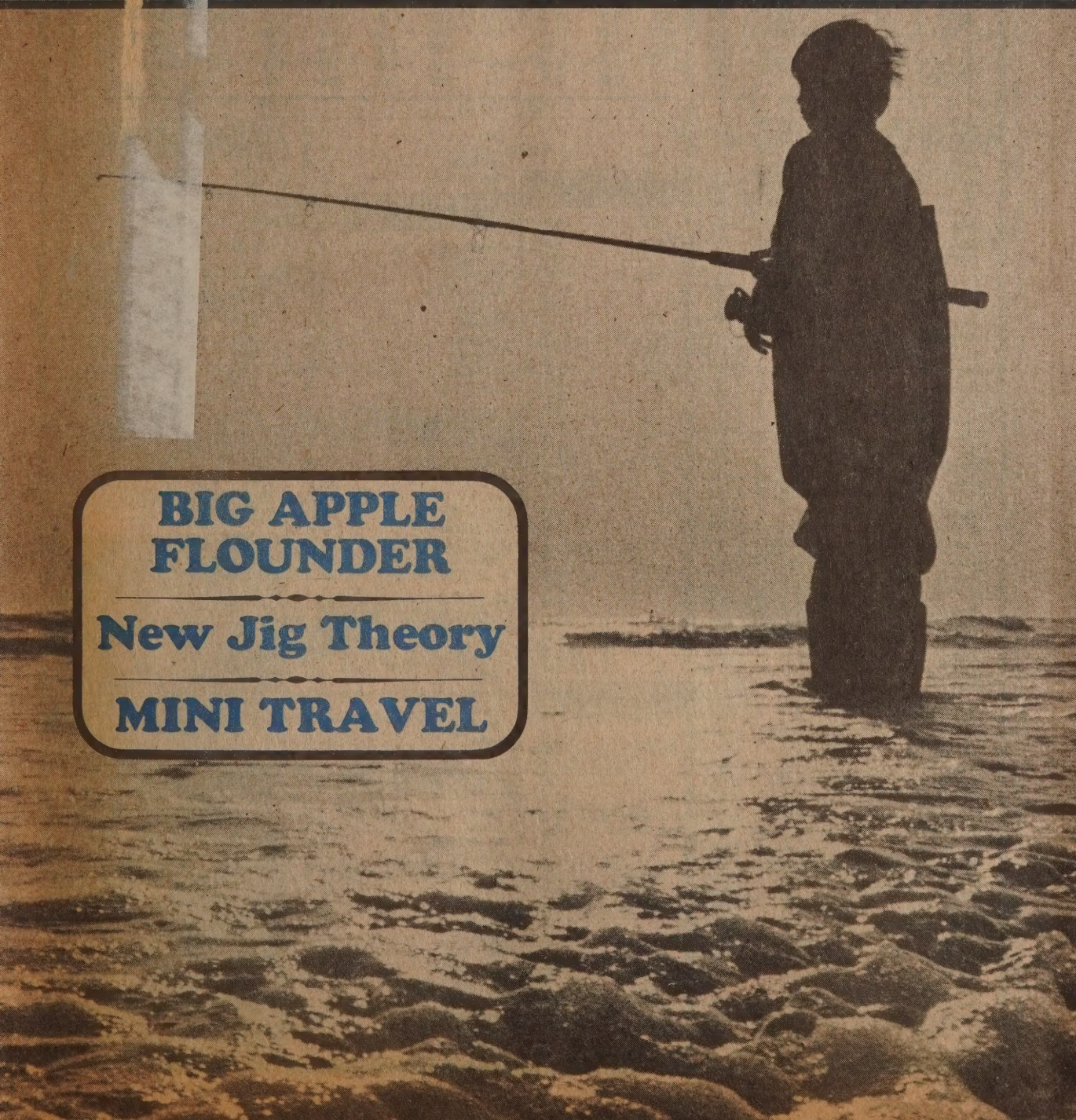
70¢

A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

March 1[illegible]h, 19[illegible] ★ Volume 16, Number 11 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS



BIG APPLE FLOUNDER

New Jig Theory

MINI TRAVEL

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-POINT AM	BRIDGE-POINT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:00	7:25	7:55	8:15	7:40	8:00	8:35	8:55	11:10	11:30	10:30	10:50	6:50	7:05	3/19
FRI.	7:35	8:00	8:35	8:50	8:20	8:40	9:15	9:30	11:50	–	11:10	11:25	7:30	7:45	3/20
SAT.	8:15	8:35	9:10	9:25	8:55	9:20	9:50	10:10	12:05	12:25	11:50	–	8:10	8:25	3/21
SUN.	8:50	9:10	9:45	10:00	9:35	9:55	10:25	10:45	12:30	12:50	12:00	12:25	8:45	9:05	3/22
MON.	9:25	9:45	10:20	10:35	10:15	10:30	11:05	11:25	12:45	1:05	12:40	1:00	9:25	9:45	3/23
TUE.	10:00	10:25	10:55	11:10	10:50	11:05	11:45	–	1:05	1:30	1:10	1:40	10:05	10:25	3/24
WED.	10:40	11:00	11:35	11:50	11:25	11:35	12:05	12:30	1:35	2:05	1:50	2:20	10:45	11:05	3/25
THUR.	11:15	11:40	–	12:15	–	12:05	12:45	1:15	2:15	2:45	2:35	3:00	11:30	11:55	3/26

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
GORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

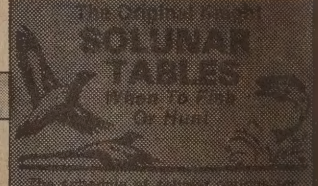
3/20	6:05	6:12
3/21	6:03	6:13
3/22	6:01	6:14
3/23	6:00	6:15
3/24	5:58	6:16
3/25	5:56	6:17
3/26	5:54	6:18

Moonrise/Moonset

3/20	6:16	6:16
3/21	7:14	6:44
3/22	8:11	7:11
3/23	9:09	7:39
3/24	10:06	8:08
3/25	11:02	8:40
3/26	11:58	9:16

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/6	3/13	3/20	3/28



The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 16, Number 11 **March 19th, 1981**

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A soothing surf envelops this lone caster as he pursues his favorite sport.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **OPENING DAY**

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
Al Ristori ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer ART DIRECTOR
Rick S. Reina PRODUCTION MANAGER

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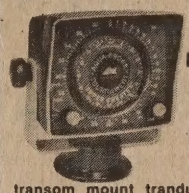

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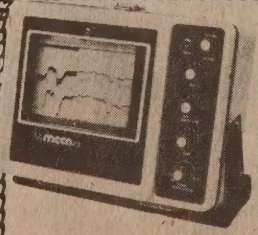

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Pass It On...

MERRICK ROD & GUN CLUB

The following members received 1980 awards at the Club's annual Installation Dinner-Dance held on February 28:

Outstanding Fisherman of 1980: Ed Curtis.
Bluefish: Bill Kimbley & Ed Curtis.
Fluke: Kevin Meehan & Bob Welliver
Weakfish: Bill Richko
Shark: Ed Curtis
Whiting: John Konior
Cod: Bill Heide, Richard Kimbley and Kevin Meehan
Log Race: G. Carter & J. Konior
Delaware River Float Trip: Paul Kimbley
Deer Hunting: R. Cheperuk & T. Seal
Rifle Range: Steve Weiss and Bob Zimmerman

PROCEEDINGS OF 5TH ANNUAL MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM NOW AVAILABLE!

Marine Recreational Fisheries 5 (226 pp., fully indexed) contains the complete proceedings of the Fifth Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium held March 27 and 28, 1980, in Boston, Massachusetts. The book is the fifth in a series reporting the annual symposiums sponsored by the International Game Fish Association, the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, the National Marine Fisheries Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Sport Fishing Institute.

The book, whose theme is the science and management of striped bass, **Morone saxatilis**, is divided into 22 chapters printed from the technical papers written for the symposium by fisheries scientists and administrators, environmental researchers, economists and sociologists. Also included are five chapters reporting the audience discussions that followed each session.

The keynote chapter, "The Outlook for Striped Bass Recovery," was written by Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island, the principal mover behind Federal legislation to fund research into the striper's decline. This is followed by "Programs of Value to Recreational Fishing" by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration head Richard A. Frank, which reviews that agency's efforts in habitat protection, ecosystem management, the recreational fishery survey, and the striped bass program.

The main body of the volume is divided into two parts: Science, Data and the Striped Bass; and Institutions, Management Impediments and Assessments.

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The first examines striped bass stocks and their harvest on a regional basis, including histories of the fisheries and their current status. Chapters in section two address the social and economic aspects of the recreational and commercial fisheries and their impact on the resource. Losses resulting from man's activities other than fishing are identified and assessed. The biology of the species is the subject of the third section. Chapter topics include spawning and egg and larval stages and the biology of juvenile and adult striped bass.

Part two consists of two sections. The first, which deals with existing institutions and management, describes the divergent regional management regimes on a state-by-state basis and provides a look at the Federal/state cooperative effort to manage the resource. The final section addresses selected issues from environmental, resource and institutional perspectives. Chapters illustrate problems of environmental quality, manageability, propagation and enhancement, and management authority.

Written summaries of the information generated conclude each session. Part one is summarized by Harold K. Chadwick, a veteran of striped bass studies and management with the California Department of Fish and Game. Part two is summarized by Irwin M. Alperin, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Marine Recreational Fisheries 5 may be purchased from the International Game Fish Association, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316, USA. The price postpaid is $15 (clothbound).

Copies of the first four books in the series are also available. The first book, **Marine Recreational Fisheries** ($15 cloth; $12 paper) explores the intrinsic nature and value of recreational fishing, defining its problems and offering recommendations for further investigation. **MRF 2** ($15 cloth) defines needs and methods for management of the fisheries. **MRF 3** ($15 cloth) analyzes marine recreational fishery research development with recommendations for the future direction of research for management and **MRF 4** ($15 cloth) focuses on fisheries institutions and marine recreational fisheries, with a comprehensive examination of the controversial proposal for state marine recreational fishing licenses. A package of all five cloth cover editions in the series is available at a discount price of $50 postpaid. Purchase orders from recognized organizations or institutions will be honored. Payment by check or money order must accompany all other orders.

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Company management advises that delivery of new sophisticated automatic machinery coupled with a few design changes allowed creation of the new brand.

CHUM LINES

RULES OF THE ROAD IN NEED OF OVERHAUL?

Careful observation and conversation has led us to the belief that a large percentage of the boating public is neither interested, nor concerned about the fundamentals of safe boating.

To the operator, the boat is nothing more than a water vehicle to go from point A to point B, for whatever purpose intended without due regard for life, limb and property. When people are misinformed or confused they tend to resist rules or make their own to suit their needs.

Fishing, cruising, sightseeing, etc., are by-products of good and prudent seamanship. However, the public has made prudent seamanship a by-product. The amount of pleasure boats and commercial vessels on the inland and offshore waters of N.Y. and L.I. is staggering to one's imagination. The saying, ''God protects children and drunks'' should include vessel operators.

With increasing numbers of people taking to the water everyday, not more but a different set of rules may be necessary to guarantee safe passage. An all-out effort must be made, no matter how radical, to make vessel operators aware of their moral and legal obligations to themselves and one another.

The professional or pleasure boat captain can best be served by a complete revision of the inland and pilot rules, as they are now confusing, conflicting and archaic even to the most serious student. We are totally

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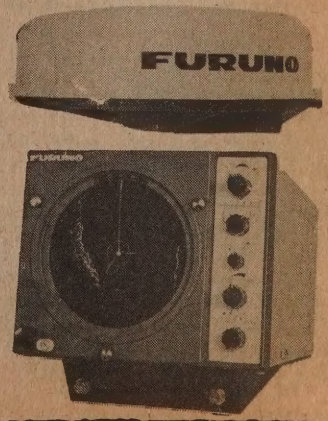

convinced these rules were never meant for the massive boat traffic that exists today. If every vessel operator, regardless of vessel size, did comply with the very spirit of inland laws concerning whistle signals for crossing, passing and overtaking the decible level would rise to an intolerable level, not to mention who is doing what to whom and why. If the last statement sounds confusing, then you will understand what we are trying to say.

Perhaps the burden should not be on the vessel operator to determine whether he or she is operating in International or Inland waters. We sincerely believe the time has come to "deep six" the archaic rituals and join forces with the 1972 COLREGS (Collission Regulations) which are in harmony with large and small vessel and large vessel vs. small vessel.

The sole intended purpose of the Rules of the Road was to prevent collision at sea, not cause it. It must be noted that no matter how confusing or complex the Rules of the Road are, if obeyed to the very letter, the possibility of collission would be nonexistent. We believe the skipper at the helm should not be concerned with fine points of law, but should have a thorough understanding of its concept. It is the duty of the privileged vessel to maintain course and speed and the duty of the burdened vessel not to hamper or deter the privileged vessel's voyage. However, it must be pointed out that the privileged vessel does not have the right to go through the hull of the burdened vessel due to her status. The Circuit Court of Appeals relative to a collision of two ferries in New York Harbor rules "When a collission is imminent, each vessel must do all in her power to avert it, no matter what may have been the previous faults, or which may have the right of way." When there is doubt as to your status, then assume the role of the burdened vessel. Two wrongs don't make it right. The saddest expression in court is "I didn't know that." Imagine a person were to travel cross country and every state had it's own peculiar set of rules and regulations. The chances of that person arriving at his destination in one piece (be it mind or body) would be nil. We suspect that more money would be spent on aspirin than on food.

Why, then, is it necessary to have two sets of rules—Inland and International, not to mention the pilot rules? We are quite convinced that one set of rules, preferably the International rules, can be successfully implemented to guarantee safe passage. Pilot rules might be necessary for local conditions, but should not conflict with main governing rules. It could be that fishing, cruising and sightseeing might then become a by-product of good seamanship. Rules would be better obeyed if better understood. *Capt. Irv Levine.*

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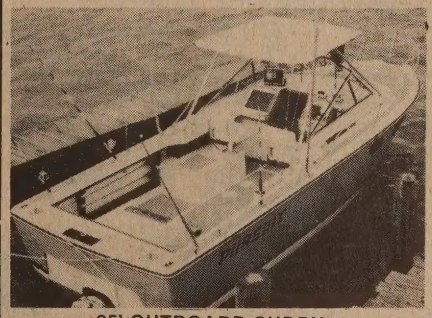

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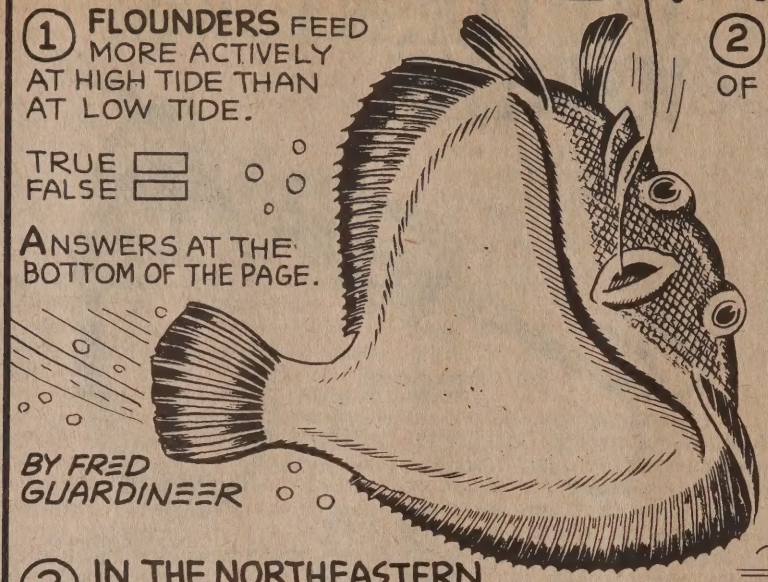


1 **FLOUNDERS** FEED MORE ACTIVELY AT HIGH TIDE THAN AT LOW TIDE.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

2 **THE OLDEST LIGHTHOUSE** STILL STANDING ON THE COAST OF THE U.S.A.,, SHOWN HERE IS:

NEW LONDON LIGHT, CT. ☐

SANDY HOOK LIGHT, N.J. ☐

MONTAUK LIGHT, LONG ISL. ☐

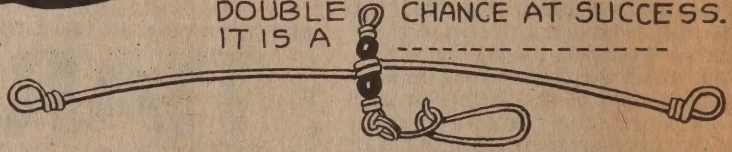
3 **IN THE NORTHEASTERN** STATES OF THE U.S., THE TADPOLE OF THE BULLFROG DEVELOPS INTO A FROG IN

ONE YEAR ☐
TWO YEARS ☐
THREE YEARS ☐

4 **WHICH IS** THE BEST TYPE OF LINE TO USE FOR WINTER FISHING THROUGH THE ICE ?

NYLON ☐
MONO ☐
COTTON ☐
SILK ☐

5 **THIS DEVICE** GIVES A BOTTOM SINKER BOUNCER A DOUBLE CHANCE AT SUCCESS. IT IS A ---------- .



6 **FRESHWATER GAMEFISH** SUCH AS BASS, TROUT, PICKEREL, PIKE AND MUSKY ARE ALL SO BIG IN THEIR WORLD RECORD CATEGORIES THEY WOULD BE HARD TO BEAT. IS THERE ANY OTHER FRESHWATER GAMEFISH WHERE I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO SET AN I.G.F.A. RECORD, A YOUNG "*FISHERMAN*" READER ASKS?

1 – TRUE. 2 – SANDY HOOK LIGHT STATION, NEW JERSEY. 3 – TWO YEARS. 4 – MONOFILAMENT IS BEST BECAUSE IT WON'T SOAK UP WATER AND GET STIFF LIKE THE OTHER LINES. 5 – A FLOUNDER SPREADER. WHEN FISHING WITH TWO HOOKS, IT KEEPS THEM FROM TANGLING. 6 – THE BLUEGILL IS ONE EXCEPTION. THE ALL TACKLE RECORD OF 4 LBS. 12 OZ. IS NOT LIKELY TO FALL, BUT TWO LINE CATEGORIES ARE OPEN. ANYONE WHO ENTERS A *BLUEGILL* IN THE 8 OR 12 LINE CATEGORIES WILL GET HIS NAME IN THE BOOK, IF ONLY TEMPORARILY.

NATIONAL SCENE

100% Observer Coverage

by Al Ristori

Remember the great "compromise" last year that was forced on supporters of the inclusion of the Atlantic bluefin tuna in the 200-Mile Limit law? The major thrust of the compromise was the requirement of one hundred percent observer coverage on the Japanese longliners that can fish pretty much as they please within our 200-mile limit as long as they seek any of the tuna family—the one group excluded from coverage of the 200-mile limit law. Well, a funny thing happened on the way to the giant tuna spawning grounds: we ended up with even less than the twenty percent coverage we had before the compromise!

All of this doesn't come as any great surprise. Last fall I noted in this column (based on talks with Bill Feinberg and others; and information provided in NOAA's "Southeast Observer News") that there didn't seem to be any movement toward training the additional observers required. According to the February issue of "Southeast Observer News," there never seemed to be any intention of providing the Congressionally-mandated one hundred percent coverage. They mention only having trouble meeting the previous twenty percent requirement.

The following is a quote of their explanation of the situation: "In December, 1980, the observer project requested deployment schedules for U.S. observers to board Japanese tuna longliners in early January, 1981. The Japanese fishing plans were not received until mid-January, thus delaying our observer deployments. Evidently the Japanese were scheduling their fleet for one hundred percent observer coverage. Due to the delay, both the Atlantic and Gulf observer coverage slipped to eleven percent for the month of January."

What this seems to indicate is that the Japanese were well aware of the Congressional mandate, but NMFS either wasn't listening—or just had no intention of complying with orders. Apparently, no effort was made to hire additional observers last year and a Federal hiring freeze has been put into effect since the Reagan Administration came into office. One observer has resigned and can't be replaced because of the hiring freeze. As is the case with other foreign fleets operating within our 200-mile limit, the Japanese were supposed to pay for the observers stationed aboard their vessels.

The entire observer project should be self-sustaining and exempt from budget and hiring constraints. However, the monies paid by the foreign governments for the observers go into the National Treasury, and the personnel and costs involved are all charged off to NMFS. Under these circumstances, NMFS is reluctant to expand the program in an era of tight budgets, as the expansion will come at the expense of other personnel and programs. You don't need an advanced degree to figure out how to handle this problem. Any business would have a separate, self-sustaining fund set up immediately to handle such a project, but in the Federal Government even the simplest solutions become a big operation. The Councils have been trying to get this done for years and have had no success at all.

Japanese Making Big Tuna Catches

It appears that the Japanese made out very well in our waters during January. According to "Southeast Observer News," thirty-one of their longliners fished the Atlantic Fishery Conservation Zone, with most activity centered about 200-miles southeast of Nantucket. Well over 25,000 tuna were boated, accounting for seventy-three percent of the catch. As might be expected at this time of year, forty-one percent of the tuna catch consisted of albacore; but a distressing thirty-nine percent were bluefins. That works out to over 10,000 bluefins. Since the giants should all be in the Gulf at this time of year, these were probably all large schoolies and mediums—the very portion of the bluefin tuna population that most requires protection. That large catch also casts a shadow over the unofficial portion of the compromise plan: the Japanese agreement to reduce their winter/spring giant tuna catch in the Gulf of Mexico from 8,000 to 7,000. It now appears that they are simply going to make up the total bluefin poundage they're allowed under ICCAT regulations by catching more small and medium fish!

While one large Japanese fleet was fishing in the Atlantic, another was getting to work on the pre-spawning giants in the Gulf. Seventeen vessels fished 120-miles west of Key West and two others 140-miles south of the Mississippi River. Observers indicated good fishing, with bluefins making up forty-seven percent of the catch. If the preliminary catch figures are any indication, they may have their 7,000 giants by the time you read this article. The only good thing to be said for that is that fewer billfish and sharks will be killed in the process. Though billfish (mostly swords) only constituted four percent of the total Gulf catch, almost eighty percent came up dead, as compared to thirty-five percent in the Atlantic. Even the shark mortality rate (at over twenty percent) was rather high.

February figures won't be available for awhile, but the Japanese were expected to have twenty-four vessels fishing in the Gulf. Since there are only five U.S. observers available, even the old twenty percent coverage will be impossible. Needless to say, all of this stupidity could be avoided if

(Continued on page 43.)

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FISH TALK

Readers Help Out Ol' Doc

by William A. Muller

A RECENT QUESTION. In a recent column we were asked about a fishing technique called "mooching." We said we didn't know what it was, and honestly we didn't. We asked those of you who might know to tell us about it and judging from your responses, mooching turns out to be something I should have known about. So, look ashamed Doc! A couple of the best helping hands came from old friends Andy Regina and Jim Juliano, although I wish to thank all of you who took the time to help me out.

NOT ON LONG ISLAND. I can't get too down on myself, though, because the term mooching isn't used too often in Long Island waters. It IS, however, a term which has great meaning to the fishermen of the West Coast where salmon are a popular quarry. Mooching is a type of drift fishing in which certain natural forces are used to impart an appealing movement to a bait. It is a very popular angling approach for chinook salmon and coho. The typical bait used in this type of fishing is herring, which can be presented whole or plug-cut. **Hold the letters.** I really know the answer to this one. A plug-cut bait is a natural bait that is cut on the bias so that the water resistance will impart action to the bait.

LONG ISLAND PARALLELS. As I read about the description and accounts of mooching, I was struck by the parallels this technique has to our own local light tackle weakfishing. Of course, the fish aren't similar and where the salmon may often be taken at depths close to 100 ft. and the weakfish spring madness is usually at full force in the shallows, the dedication to the technique, the almost fanatic attempt to fish by certain rules, seems to apply in both. For example, both are usually approached with light tackle and the fans of each tend to adhere strictly to certain formalities. Thus in mooching, the angler uses a "mooching rod" and these tackle tools have certain criteria. Mooching rods are light tackle rods of about eight to ten feet. These rods should have long butts, a lot of backbone, and well made to hold a solid reel seat in place against the runs of a good sized salmon. Salmon, like our weakfish, can sometimes be rather finicky eaters and the "strike" really not a strike at all and may well better resemble a feeble nibble. Thus, although the rod need be powerful towards the butt, the tip should be very sensitive so that the fisherman can detect and properly react to the slighest change at the business end of the tackle.

WEAKFISH DEDICATION. In like manner, the fans of our northern weakfish follow a process that is almost cult-like. The spinning rods should be light to ultra-light in character (even when the fish get big as a gorillagator-sized blue); the tips should be very sensitive, and the preferred way to take the species by purists in on a drift while casting very small, yet colorful artificials that are gracefully maneuvered in front of the nose of an often fussy weak.

COINCIDENTAL. Along about the same time that the answers to our mooching dilemma started coming in, we also received an interesting letter from James M. Brady of Rockaway Point. He was writing in response to our writings in the January 22 issue about sizable weakfish catches. We will be running a column in either issue #12 or #13 as a follow-up to our big fish column in January and perhaps Jim's letter would have fit better there; but we feel that it sounds a lot like mooching. "In your article in 1-22-81, you mentioned sizable catches of weakfish in Jamaica Bay. Well, this past fall I had some good fortune and caught several tide-runners in the thirteen to eighteen pound range right in Jamaica Bay, off the Rockaway Point Ferry Dock. I used fresh porgy fillets as bait. The only thing I did differently than some of the others was to cut the fillets deep at the tail, producing as much blood as possible. I also scaled the porgy before filleting it. I had much better results this way than I had previously experienced using bunker or snapper. Also, I found that the most productive times appeared when there was a tide change near sunrise or just after sunset. We also took many decent sized blues fishing with this same approach."

THANKS, JIM. We would also like to add that your tail-split porgy fillet may also have a little more action than the fillets used by the other fishermen. Your fillet which was first scaled may also have been a little more limber and, therefore, gave a better action to the bait. Sounds a little bit like the West Coast salmon moochers who plug-cut their baits.

WHEN IN ROME. The experiences of Jim Brady also demonstrates that an old adage still has some meaning. The saying goes that "when in Rome do as the Romans do." We have observed that fishermen all too frequently fall into the trap of doing the same things again and again. If we took a good number of fish on a 'whatchama-callit" in 1972, then we may still be using it in 1981 even though it doesn't work anymore. Bunker and snappers are great baits to take outsized weaks and they still work today just as well as they always have in many places; yet in areas where there aren't too many bunker or snappers, or where another species is very abundant, the weaks may take up a liking for whatever it is that's swimming around. Some good fishermen have told us that eels aren't any good for weaks, and yet some of the biggest weaks that I've ever seen have come out of the Peconic Bay on whole live eels. Now, I'll admit that eels may be passed over by weaks in many a locale, but in the right place and the right time they can be potent baits. It happens the other way, too. Eels are the greatest for striped bass, right? Yet I have seen times when bass would stick their noses up in the air to eels in favor of sand eels or spearing or a lot of other things. That's what makes fishing the interesting horse race that it is!

ODDS AND ENDS. We also got a little help from other readers who thought we might look into or re-evaluate our approaches relative to several problems. Robert Luthmann of Staten Island recently sent along a page out of the Sea Grant Journal that discusses the use of auto tires to build artificial reefs. For some reason, Robert thought that we were against the construction of such reefs. Don't know how that came about. In fact, we used that same page from Sea Grant as part of our background work for the story. We think that the construction of artificial reefs is a prime priority for Long Island recreational fishing along with the construction of additional boat launching facilities and ocean fishing piers. Experience has shown that when these facilities are made available in areas that are oriented to tourism and recreation, that the economy of the region improves tremendously. In this day and age where fuel costs, boat costs, and other transportation costs are simply becoming unrealistic expenses for many anglers, facilities that encour-

(Continued on page 38.)

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

SCALLOPS MALTESE

by Eileen Regina

If your family is anything like ours, your preference probably runs to seafood rather than fish, if given a choice. I know that at our house, everyone likes seafood of any type, but not all of us likes every find of fish. When I cook fish I have to consider the people who do not care for bluefish, because of its particular flavor; or codfish because they think it too dry. Further consideration must be given to those who prefer only fillets because they can't stand bones; while others think that whole fish are tastier. There is no squabbling when I cook shellfish of any type, although everyone does have their own favorite dish. When it comes to lobster, there's no problem, but it is so expensive now that we must wait for a rare sale, or for when one of Andy's friends hit a jackpot. He has a couple of friends who drop pots in the Sound, and others who are scuba divers, and every once in awhile one or the other will drop off a couple of lobsters—but it doesn't happen too often, I assure you.

Clams and scallops are a different matter, though, and his friends on Great South Bay keep us fairly well supplied. Of course, in this world of ours, no one gets something for nothing, to quote my chubby spouse, and this largesse is simply repayment for the many favors Andy does on his part. He usually dispenses lures and tackle to his close friends—hooks by the dozens, sinkers, line, plugs—you name it. His theory is that these things must be used to be truly appreciated, and that they are no good to anyone, sitting on the closet shelf.

Quoting his Uncle Vito, Andy says, "One hand washes the other," and "To get, you gotta give!"; and he forever gives freely. I just wish that his generosity would be better appreciated by some of those who always seem to take advantage of his good nature, but I guess he will never change, no matter what. I guess it goes back to the days when he was growing up during the days of the depression, when almost everyone was in the same boat, and no one really had any more than anyone else. Everything got shared then—from clothing to used baseballs—and he claims that people were closer then, than now.

Naturally, I love him for his generous traits also, but I wish that he wouldn't carry it to excess so often, like when he volunteers my services all the time! If it is a family affair of some sort, he always says, "Oh, Eileen will make that," or "Eileen will be glad to do that," and I get the job of shopping, or cooking, or cleaning, or whatever. Not that I wouldn't do it anyway; just that he goes overboard at times, like when he invites twenty people to dinner, or promises everyone aboard his favorite partyboat one of my pepper and eggs, or eggplant parmigiana sandwiches. Then, about two o'clock in the morning, when he is sleeping peacefully and I'm wrapping fifty sandwiches, is the time when I'd like to take his generosity and choke him!

Some friends recently dropped by for coffee one evening, and brought us a half-bushel of bay scallops, freshly picked on the south shore. Andy was so pleased that he shucked a couple of pounds right then and there, and talked me into making a fast dish for all of us to enjoy. When he brags about my cooking I always give in, and this dish can be made in a few minutes; and is quite simple but satisfying. Because it varies slightly from a traditional Italian dish.

Ingredients: (Serves 4 to 6)

2 tbs. olive oil
2 lbs. raw bay scallops
1 oz. Kirsch
1 clove fresh garlic, finely diced
1 large onion, diced
1 can (10 oz.) chopped tomatoes
1/2 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
1/4 tsp. crushed oregano
salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup white wine
lemon slices
chopped parsley

Heat oil in saucepan, add scallops and saute for 2 minutes. Flame briefly in Kirsch to sear in flavor. Remove and set aside.

In remaining oil, saute the onion and garlic until light brown. Add tomato paste and mix well, then add chopped tomatoes, spices, and wine. Cook over moderate heat for 8 mins.

Return the scallops to the pan and cook for additional 5 mins. Serve on toast or bed of boiled rice. Garnish with lemon slices and parsley.

To complement this dish, serve with tossed green salad, bread sticks and a dry white wine, such as Bolla Soave. Top off the meal with capuchinno, that whipped cream-topped espresso coffee, and liquer.

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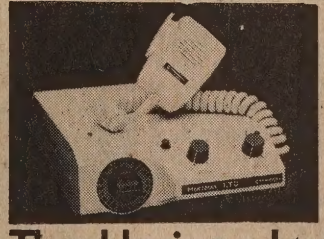

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SINKER BOUNCING

FLOUNDER TIPS

by Matt Ahern

Last week's article reviewed the basics of spring flounder fishing. This week we'll detail several flounder catching tips veteran sinker bouncers use when confronted by those discouraging days even the best of us fall heir to. None of these tips has been recently acquired; many were familiar to fishermen when I first dunked flounder bait well over a half-century ago; some, like the use of dyed clam, are comparatively new. But all have one thing in common: they work! None has let me down when used properly and you can be certain they will work for you. In fact, these tips produce so well, I say in all honesty that I have never gone flounder fishing and failed to meet with some measure of success. To put it in the vernacular of the day: I have never been skunked when flounder fishing.

This happy state of affairs isn't because I am a hot-shot flounder fisherman—those who have read last week's column know that. But should the prospect of failure loom on the horizon, I never hesitate to employ one or more of the following tips. By so doing, I have often managed to turn what appeared to be certain defeat into triumph. Perhaps I don't reap a bonanza on those off-days, but neither do I return home with an empty bucket.

The following tips, hints, suggestions, bits of advice—call them what you will—are common knowledge among advanced flounder fishermen. These fellows will find few tips listed here which they have not already used at one time or another. These are the fishermen who will surely vouch for the ability of these tips to produce fish under the most trying circumstances.

So, with that out of the way, let's continue.

I don't know who first had the idea that a dyed clam might possibly outfish one in its natural state. But I doff my fishing cap to him. And not only that, this gentleman has proven beyond doubt that experimenting can and does lead one to fishing successes never dreamed of.

What now follows is not meant to discourage you from using dyed-clam bait, but is merely an observation on my part. For several years now I have noticed a change in flounder reaction when dyed clam is used. No longer does it produce as well as it once did. I can tell you of personal instances when flounder fishermen of my acquaintance who did not use dyed clam caught few fish indeed. Today, though, I've suffered through occasions when it was refused. Not many, but some. But this doesn't lessen my confidence in dyed clam. In fact, were I to go flounder fishing without it, I would indeed feel vulnerable. It is a great back-up bait—especially so once our bay waters take on a bit of warmth and the fish become more active.

I believe the best dyed-clam bait is made from soft clam (steamers). Dyed FRESH skimmer comes in a close second. I put emphasis on the word "fresh" because it is often difficult to

Properly prepared bait produces...

flounder like this.

obtain prepackaged or frozen skimmer which does not contain some amount of salt. Salted skimmer for flounder is worthless in my opinion. Help ensure your success and use only freshly shucked skimmer.

Fishermen have dyed clam in various hues for sometime (experimentation again), but the best producing colors seem to be red and yellow. Red is used in water less than twenty feet in depth (below that depth I've been told red cannot be seen too clearly); yellow, on the other hand, is clearly distinguished to a depth of thirty feet and beyond. There seems to be some truth in this, but I can recall catching some mighty big flounder in depths over thirty feet when using red-dyed soft clam. So, as the man says, you take your choice.

To dye clam is easy enough, but it can be messy if care isn't taken. And you know who will look upon you with a jaundiced eye. But for my money, it is worth the trouble. Here is how I do it.

I first slice the clam into proper bait size, which in this instance means narrow inch-and-a-half pieces. I most always use soft clam necks because these are easier to obtain than fresh skimmer (any fish market can supply). I make certain to slice all bait lengthwise in such a manner that some of the soft stomach remains with each piece. This is what flounder relish.

Baits are then placed into a suitable container—one of those plastic tubs used for whipped topping or for potato salad is fine. Food dye in the color of your choice is added SLOWLY, drop by drop, and constantly stirred with a small stick. Prepared in this manner, dyed clam will keep surprisingly well when properly refrigerated or frozen as it seems the food dye acts as a mild preservative. The longer you keep the bait, however, the darker it will become, so be sure not to over-dye.

And that's all there is to dyeing clam for flounder bait.

One of the facts about flounder is that they are extremely curious. The flounder fisherman who succeeds is the one who takes advantage of this. Some fellows bounce their sinkers on the mud or sand bottom, sending out vibrations and releasing puffs of food into the current. This is probably where the term "sinker bouncer" got its start. This method works fine and I know I've caught many flounder with it. But there is a better way.

I use an eight inch length of two inch diameter lead pipe as a bottom pounder. I made this by crimping the bottom and pouring in molten lead for additional weight. I then bored one hole through each side of the open end and attached a six inch length of brass sash chain and soldered each end to form a strong loop. To this I added a length of nylon Venetian blind cord long enough to reach bottom in any area I intend fishing. Works fine. I used a sash weight at one time, but rust became a problem. Especially so when my wife placed one of our baby's clothes in the car trunk some years ago and unknowingly lay them on the damp and rusted iron. Oh boy!

Not all sinker bouncers fish flounder from skiffs, party boats, etc. Many of us enjoy shore fishing for the great sport it is. But there's one drawback. Few shore fishing spots offer deep water within easy reach (Shinnecock Canal is one), therefore, casting becomes necessary. On a windless day this is no great problem; but when the day is gusty, problems arise with cast rigs twisting about the main line in such a manner fishermen are never sure their hooks are on bottom.

This annoying problem is easily solved by one of two methods. Use either a small three-way swivel when attaching the rig to the main line, or use a sinker snap (or large snap swivel) and place both sinker and rig together. Doing this may cut down on your sensitivity for bites, but at least the bait will be on bottom where it must be.

For the skiff fisherman who decides to drift around his immediate area whenever the action slows, I find it best to use a small marker buoy as a reference point. This can consist of a small piece of wood or cork, painted orange or red for easy sighting, plus a length of supple line long enough to reach bottom. Add a four ounce sinker and you're in business. Avoid using white paint on the buoy. If the day is choppy, you'll never spot it among the white caps.

When a buoy is used in this manner, it is a simple matter to return to the original spot where, many times, the fish will begin to bite again after a brief respite. Why this should be, I don't know. This is also a good time to change bait from worm to clam, or whatever.

The subject of bait reminds me of something most important. Never bunch bait on your hook—especially when using worm. Use inch-and-a-half pieces as recommended and always allow at least a quarter inch to trail in the current. Soft bait entices flounder.

While the recommendation of chum cannot be regarded as a tip in the true sense of the word, there is something I want to say about its use.

One of the latest temptors used for chumming flounder has been canned corn. It certainly does produce, no question about that. But because I am from the old school, I much prefer to stay with natural chum such as crushed mussel and clam. I'm told by those who should know that no harm is done to the flounder's delicate digestive system when corn is used. But I'm not entirely convinced.

But be that as it may. These few tips you have just read about will put flounder in your bucket. As I said earlier, they have never failed me.

Now go out there and prove I'm right.

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SURF FISHING

Confessions Of A Novice

Part One — *by William A. Muller*

Before we begin the story, let's set the record straight—only then can you fully appreciate the depths of profound meaning to my experiences. When it comes to plugs and other artificials, I like to think of myself as a capable surf fisherman. However, when the technique calls for bait, I'm a novice; a mere babe in the woods.

Further, in order to give credit where credit is due (something I believe firmly in), I must state for all to understand plainly that I owe all the horrors I've experienced in fishing bait in the surf to one man: John Fritz. John, as you all know, is a frequent contributor to this column and an accomplished diversified surf fisherman. Before I started fishing with John, a few years back, I fished strictly artificials on the beach. I was happy, content. Deep down in the recesses of my soul I knew that many and more larger fish fell to the baited hook than to the plug, and that when times were lean the bait could coax a few fish from behind rocks, but I successfully ignored all that. You see, there was no conscience to remind me. Thus, I fished merrily along through fat and lean days—then I hooked up with John.

At first I resisted and I begged off the baitfishing trips. However, as time went on and John returned from baitfishing trips with news of good catches while I scratched my ears with the hooks from my plugs, I began to have nagging doubts. Should I try this? Do I know enough about it? Eventually, I gave in, and yet the trips were fruitless save for an occasional fish for John or one of his buddies. In spite of the lack of success, I slowly became more comfortable with the techniques of baitfishing and although I still preferred artificials, I was no longer as reluctant to go along on these sorties. Oh sure, I kidded John intensely about baitfishing "productivity" and he took it good-naturedly most of the time. Still, he pointed out correctly that baitfishing wasn't any more of a guarantee for scoring in the suds than plugs. That was my second big lesson. Oh yes, the first was that baitfishing, although quite often boring, wasn't the total bore that I expected. Lesson two then was to be patient and put your time in.

Then it happened! An event so important in its scope that it almost put me off baitfishing in the surf for life! What could happen that could so alter my outlook? Okay. It was a few years ago and the first spring where the weakfish in Long Island Sound changed from almost pushovers to picky wise-guys. We saw evidence of weaks and some anglers picked up fish now and then. But we reasoned that sandworms might produce a steady and consistent pick where artificials just hadn't been predictable. We set out for the beach armed with worms, floats, sinkers, hooks, leaders, fish finder rigs and all the rest of the baitfishing grab-bag. In time we set up along the proper part of the beach, at the right stage of the tide, and we waited. Two hours passed, and yet there had not yet even been a hit. No fish showed either and there were no sprays of bait to even indicate passing fish. Other fishermen walked by returning from other parts of the beach with one or two fish, but we had nothing. After two hours I grew restless. I couldn't just continue to stand there and watch the rod tip.

So, I told John I was going to plug to the right of my spiked rod. He shrugged and he was polite about it; but after all, if the worms wouldn't take any fish, how could one expect plugs to work! I'll bet that some of you have already figured where this story is going. Sure enough, on my first cast with a Rebel, I had a hit. I yelled the news to John. He shrugged, not quite believing that I could tell the difference between a hit and a bump from some seaweed. However, on the next cast I had a fish—a fat, seven pound weak!

The sight of that fish laying on the beach sent John scurrying for his plugs and soon, we were both plugging merrily away. We picked at good-sized weaks for the rest of the tide and in time, other fishermen who passed by and saw our action settled in next to us and connected too. At first, we left the worm-baited rigs out in the briny, but after about one hour, John reeled his in. He said, "I don't believe this, but it seems like all they want are plugs, so let's get the worms out of the way." I decided on an experiment. I wanted to see if the weaks' reluctance to take the worms was a temporary problem associated with water conditions or a situation that would persist through the tide. I thought perhaps the weaks would stop hitting the plugs so aggressively and then the worms would work.

The hours passed uneventfully for the worm-baited rigs resting peacefully on the bottom. I didn't check the rig at all during this period and a good baitfisherman would have scolded me for sure. Still, there wasn't time, so I left them to drown. When the action was long over and we were ready to pack away plugs and rods for the night, I reeled in the baited rig. To my surprise, the worms were still on the hook and they were still alive! Not vigorous, mind you, but alive.

John and I both mumbled in amazement at this fact as we packed gear away for the trip home. Needless to say, I ribbed John real good. He wasn't overjoyed with what had happened either. Pleased that we had taken good fish, but definitely lacking an explanation for the failure of the worms. Lesson three! Bait is NOT always better than artificials.

Okay, I was getting a better picture of things. It was coming into focus. Although baitfishing had its advantages, it also has its disadvantages. The surf fisherman needs to exercise as much skill, experience, and good judgment in deciding whether to fish artificials or bait as he or she does in deciding which plug will fool rolling and slurping, but reluctant fish.

Very little changed for awhile after that experience except that the story of our experience traveled up and down the beach and across the sea, too. There were thousands who had a good chuckle on us; but that's okay, we did take fish! John and I fished bunker chunks for blues in several places without much luck; we fished live eels for bass along the open beaches. The following year John had a few good shots at weaks on worms in the south shore suds, and he seized on this event to remind me that sometimes game fish follow the rules as written in "THE BOOK." Oh yes, in recent times John has been very sarcastic about "THE BOOK." For those of you who do not know about "THE BOOK," it is the so-called "way it should be as in time-tested techniques and well-documented fish behavior." In recent years, however, fish haven't been reading "THE BOOK" and thus they have been behaving more like fish and less like rational humans. In any event, since John like any good surf fisherman works the percentages in order to score consistently, he reads THE BOOK. Anyway, fish may live in schools, but they don't read the book. I shouldn't be too quick to comment

on John's attitude toward THE BOOK, since I read it too, and I'm as disgusted as he is!

Lesson four: style! In spite of all the things that have conspired to turn me off to bait fishing, I stuck with it. You see, John was very encouraging throughout my early development. He would say things like: "Baitfishing is a nice change of pace," or "something will turn up," or "well, we ain't catching any fish with plugs, are we?" So, in spite of my bad experiences I was easily convinced to give it one more try. The last comment was especially motivating. True, I slowly but surely began to take fish and this inspired me some. Thus, by the season of 1979, I was actually urging him to go fish bait with me! This turn of events entertained John often and I caught him chuckling over my suggestions to sling chunks more than once. Oh yes, lesson four. Lesson four deals with style. You see, in the early days when I'd read about others taking fish on bait, including John, and observed my own self fishless with that technique, I'd ask John, "There must be something that I should know and thus do what I'm not doing." Of course there is. You can just throw a plug and reel it in or you can work it and, like an artist works his brushes, you can "make music" with your plugs. The same is true for baitfishing. You can't just throw it out and pray. You must develop a style. Your style may disagree a little from others but as long as it contains the essentials of good technique you will develop several unique behaviors. I discovered then that the only real way to develop both good style and good technique is to go fishing. Going fishing isn't enough, because unless you have fish to learn from, the experience isn't too educational. Thus, style and skill must go together.

Lesson Five: I know that many good baitfishermen out there will probably disagree with the conviction of this next statement, but then again, I'm still learning. The purpose of this article is to relate to other surf fishermen in my situation: learning. Here goes! I discovered that size has nothing to do with how a fish picks up a bait. Even the hard-nosed blue doesn't always fit the mold. There are times when a fish will pick up the bait and go like hell. The pole goes down. However, more often than not the fish will nibble and scratch. The rod tip will wiggle like a flounder sucking a mussel bait. The wiggle can be from a pound fish or a cow; you never know until you set the hook and feel the weight and power of that first run. Thus, assume nothing and treat every pick-up as if it were a trophy.

Lesson Six: It's probably better to never spike a rod because you can feel the subtle happenings. You can react quickly to an aggressive fish and you can feel the nibbler. One problem: how anyone can hold a rod for hours on end when the action is picky or non-existent, is beyond me. Therefore, most often the rods go in the spikes. Even the best do it, so don't feel bad! Make sure that your drag is loose, though, so that rod, reel, and everything else doesn't go flying down the beach and into the breakers. A loose drag with the clicker on provides you with a margin of safety. There have been all kinds of stories about rods that are pulled down. One, for example, happened some place near Cedar Beach or Gilgo. It seems that this fella was slinging eels a few years back and something took the rod down. He was a little bit off the rod and his drag was tight, so by the time he ran to the rod it was in the sand and heading to sea. He caught up with it where the waves run up the beach. He picked up the rod and set the hook. The reel was loaded with sand and refused to give up line. The line parted and the fish was free. The next day he took a good bass only to find his rig in that fish's throat. Or the guy who lost rod, reel, rig, and eel to a fish. The next day he hooked a fish. He reeled it in. On the beach he noticed that there was another line hanging out of the fish's mouth. He pulled it in and there was his rod and reel. Truth IS stranger than fiction!

Next Week: Part II.

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Two Hook Flounder Rig

by Tim Coleman

One of the key ingredients to saltwater fishing is simplicity. Keep the rigging simple and you'll do better than the person worrying about beads, arms, spinners and Lord knows what else on his bottom tackle.

Flounder fishing should not be any exception to this rule. I believe the use of beads, spreaders, etc., is unnecessary. You won't catch any more fish than with the simple rig we are about to take a look at. It will do everything a spreader will do at less cost.

This anglerette demonstrates that the two-hook rig is as effective for shore anglers as it is for boatmen. Please note the duo-lock snap used to connect the sinker to three-way swivel. You can use it instead of the piece of mono shown on the opposite page.

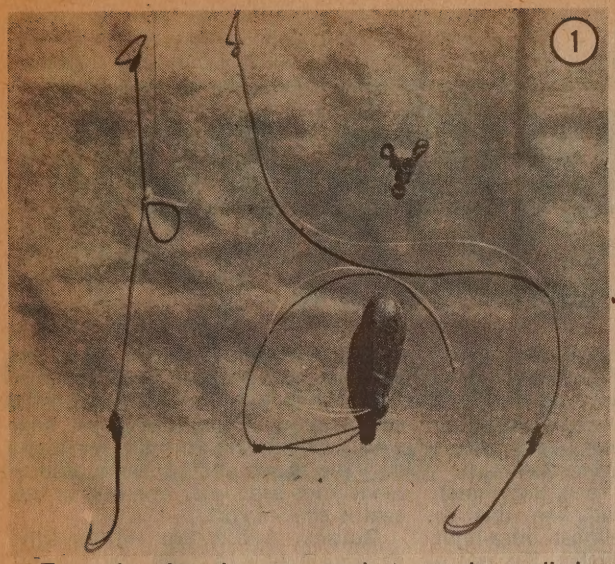
The two hook rig allows the use of two baits both resting on the bottom, yet it is less water resistant than the spreader with metal arms. That can be very important if you have a current at your favorite flounder spot. For instance, using light tackle means you can only go so heavy on the sinker without overloading a small rod. The two hook rig accommodates you much better in that respect.

You can put two different baits down initially, then change over to the top producer. One duo might be sandworms with strips of frozen sea clams or worms and mussels. I've seen fellows bait up with whole kernel yellow corn and catch flats. This was especially true when they used corn in their chum pots. How about baiting one hook with seaworm, the other with a night crawler? The two hook rig gives you the option.

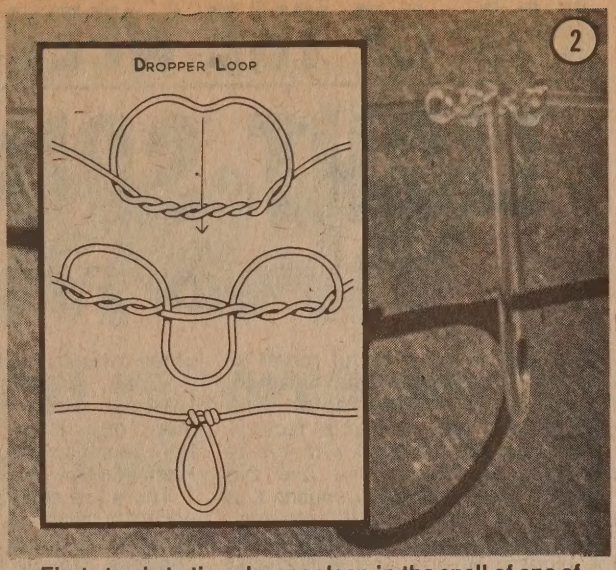
Spreaders usually come pre-packaged—at a pre-packaged price. In the winter you not only beat the per rig cost, but also supply yourself with a winter project of tying up these rigs beforehand. I usually buy hooks already snelled. You need #8 or #10 Chestertowns, enough three-way swivels for as many rigs as you want to tie, a piece of thirty pound mono for each rig and your usual selection of sinkers.

In time the arms on your spreader will bend, sometimes to break later at the wrong moment. The spreader also has a unique way of collecting grass and such as they roll along the bottom with the tide. Ditto for any weeds or other growth. The two hook rig will also collect trash but not near as much. You don't have those two arms protruding out.

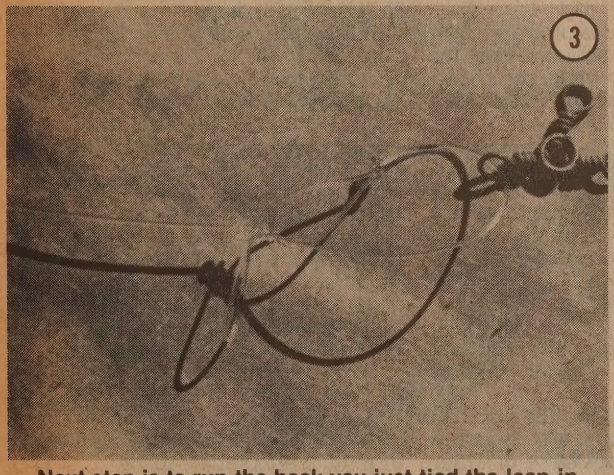
At one of our clinics last winter in Old Saybrook, quite a few people were interested in using this rig. So rather than spend time writing about it, we thought it best to do the majority of this piece in photos. Without further delay, please look across the page for directions on tying the two hook flounder rig.



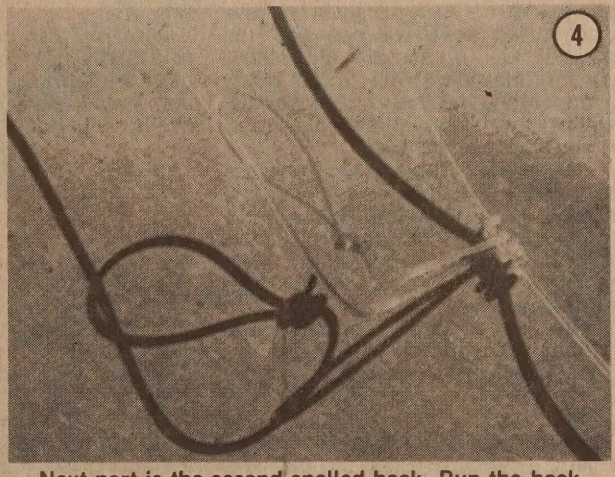
To make the rig you need a couple snelled Chestertown hooks, a three-way swivel, a 10'' piece of 30 lb. mono attached to a sinker of your choice.



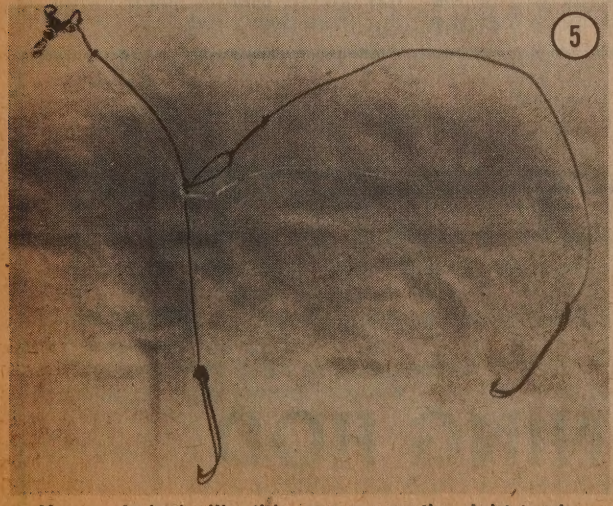
First step is to tie a dropper loop in the snell of one of the hooks. The inset drawing shows how to tie one of those loops.



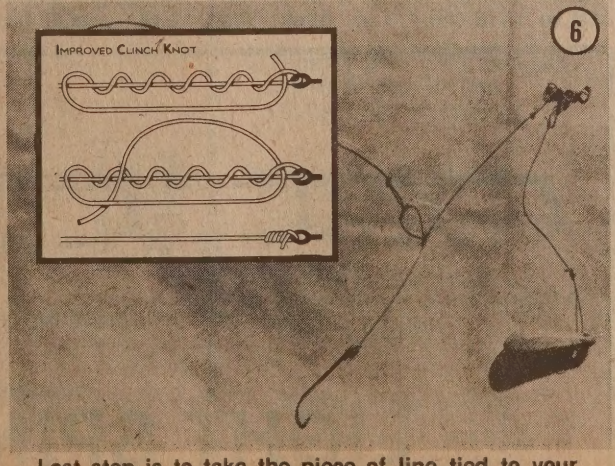
Next step is to run the hook you just tied the loop in through one eye of the three-way swivel and the snelled loop (not the dropper loop). Once you've done this, pull the snelled loop tight around the eye of the swivel.



Next part is the second snelled hook. Run the hook point through the dropper loop you tied in the snell of the first hook. Run the point also through the snelled loop of the second hook and pull this tight around the dropper loop.



If your rig looks like this, you are on the right track.



Last step is to take the piece of line tied to your sinker and connect it with a clinch knot to a second eye of the three-way swivel.

ROD OF THE WEEK:

LIGHT SPINNING ROD

by Pete Barrett

One of the most delightful rods I've ever had the pleasure to fish is a light action five-and-a-half footer. The original rod was a Garcia factory-made item that traveled with me to Manitoba for brook trout and big northern pike, cast small spoons and spinners in many Catskill streams, overpowered schoolie striped bass on the Hudson River's Croton Bay and did yeoman work with crappie, pickerel and undersized largemouth bass in the Bear Mountain Lakes.

The tip finally snapped while struggling with a Wisconsin walleye that would have touched the ten pound mark, or so said my fishing partner that day. The tiptop guide snapped off, the line rubbed harshly against the raw splintered blank and it was goodbye walleye.

I repaired the tip and the rod does cast almost as before, only it's slightly shorter, but I cleaned it up and put it into a cloth bag to store away with a few other rods and reels that I value more for their memories rather than present service.

The rod was quickly replaced with a hand-made version that is nearly identical in action and is now tallying up its own line of memories and experiences.

At five-and-a-half feet the rod is small, making it ideal for carrying while stream fishing. Underhand casts into overhanging brush or side arm flips with tiny spinners are a breeze with this little rod.

It will handle lures from tiny weighted streamers of 1/6 oz. and heavier stuff up to 3/8. It works the best with 1/8 and 1/4 oz. lures. One of my favorite trout combinations was a small Dardevle spoon with a streamer teaser tied twelve inches ahead of it. It was equally deadly on fat Canadian brookies and dwarf Ramapo River rainbows.

There are several reels that match perfectly with a rod like this to enhance its light, almost ultra-light qualities. The old Mitchell 308 was a neat reel years ago. The Penn 716, the smallest Shakespeare Sigma, Pflueger 1223, Daiwa 500 or 1000 and the Quick 110 are all fine and balance very well.

Line test can be as light as two pound test, but four pound is best for most stream fishing while six pound test would be ideal for most lake fishing situations.

Blanks. The Shakespeare 0630 is good if you cut the butt back to stay at 5½'; the Dynaflex 2561 and 3664F are both excellent choices. Fenwick has several blanks to choose from including the SP661F, SP632 and SP724F which must be cut at the butt. Lamiglas has the UL 681F, UL742F, and SUL 681F. In graphite you can use the Fenwick GSP661F and Lamiglas GUL 662.

Grips. To preserve the overall lightness of the blank, cork rings are the best grips. Foam, cellite or other rubber based grips will only add unnecessary weight.

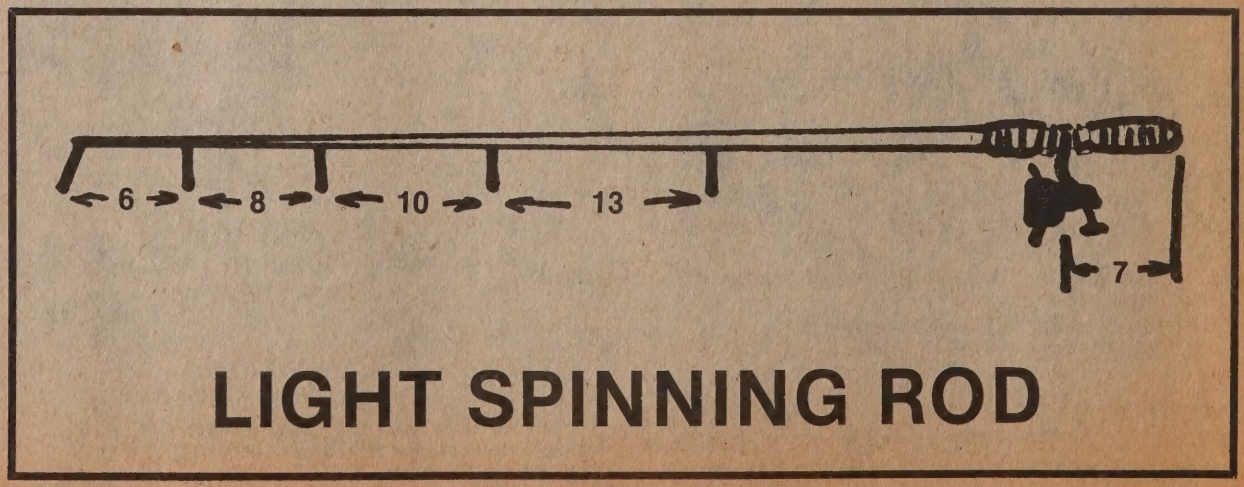
Reel Seat. None is needed. Simply use aluminum sliding bands in place of a stationary reel seat. If you prefer the stationary seat, choose a very lightweight aluminum or any of the newer plastic based seats that are both durable and very light. There are many custom style reel seats available from rod supply houses that offer a combination of stationary reel seat with cork centers. In this last case only the hoods and threaded adjustment rings are metal, the rest of the seat is shaped cork.

Guides. Again, for lightweight choose a light wire guide. Varmac and Allan have beautiful light framed guides for light and ultra-light rods. There are several ceramic guides to choose from, but I feel the single foot Fuji type is best for lightness. The Aetna foul-proof spiral guides by Gudebrod are also excellent choices.

Hardware. You can use fancy grip caps, end checks, butt cap and keeper rings, but one of the best qualities is the already-mentioned lightness of the blank and the finished product. My own rod is spartan in finish lacking any extra hardware. The cork grips are sanded to meet the blank smoothly with no end checks or other metal extras. I used a small fly rod style butt cap which weighs nearly nothing, yet does protect the end of the butt from scraps on the ground.

A rod of this class needs a cloth bag at least, and an aluminum rod case tube at best. You can also make your own tube from a PVC tube obtainable at a plumbing supply store.

I choose tan and brown wraps for my rod so the entire blank and rod blended into the environment of a stream or lake. My saltwater sticks are all wrapped in a gaudy red/yellow combination, but the muted tones of the browns seemed more fitting for this more dainty rod.



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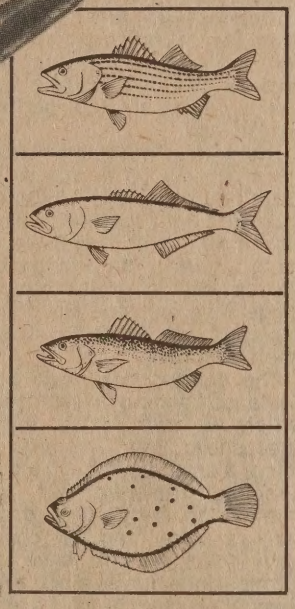

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"BIG APPLE" FLOUNDER

by Herb Buch

"The grass is always greener in someone else's back yard," and the flounder fishing is always better "out on the Island." As a resident of the "Big Apple," it is not unusual for me to drive seventy or eighty miles to fish in Moriches Bay, and I consider Great South Bay my home grounds. Imagine my surprise at finding out that Jamaica Bay can produce fishing to rival in quality any that can be had on Long Island.

Last spring, my friend Artie invited me to go out on a charter that his lodge had organized. It was basically a trip for family members, but his son did not want to go; therefore, he could invite a guest. The primary objective was a day of relaxation with a congenial group, and along with this I expected that we might catch a few small flounders.

The charter boat was docked at Tamaqua Landing in Gerritsen Beach, which is sort of a suburb to Sheepshead Bay. The area reminds you of a small fishing village with the rambling Tamaqua Bar and Grill fronting on the floating dock which harbors more than ten charter and party boats. As you leave the dock, the old frame homes along the narrow channel all seem to have a small dock and one or more boats out front. After a short ride, you pass through a marsh lined inlet and under the belt parkway as you enter Jamaica Bay.

A short ride across the bay to the end of Breezy Point was made easier by the outgoing current. The first stop was on the east side of the jetty tip. The area has no appreciable current during ebb tide. The boat was anchored in the middle of a small fleet near the rocks. Bloodworms, skimmer clam, and mussels were laid out and we all began to fish.

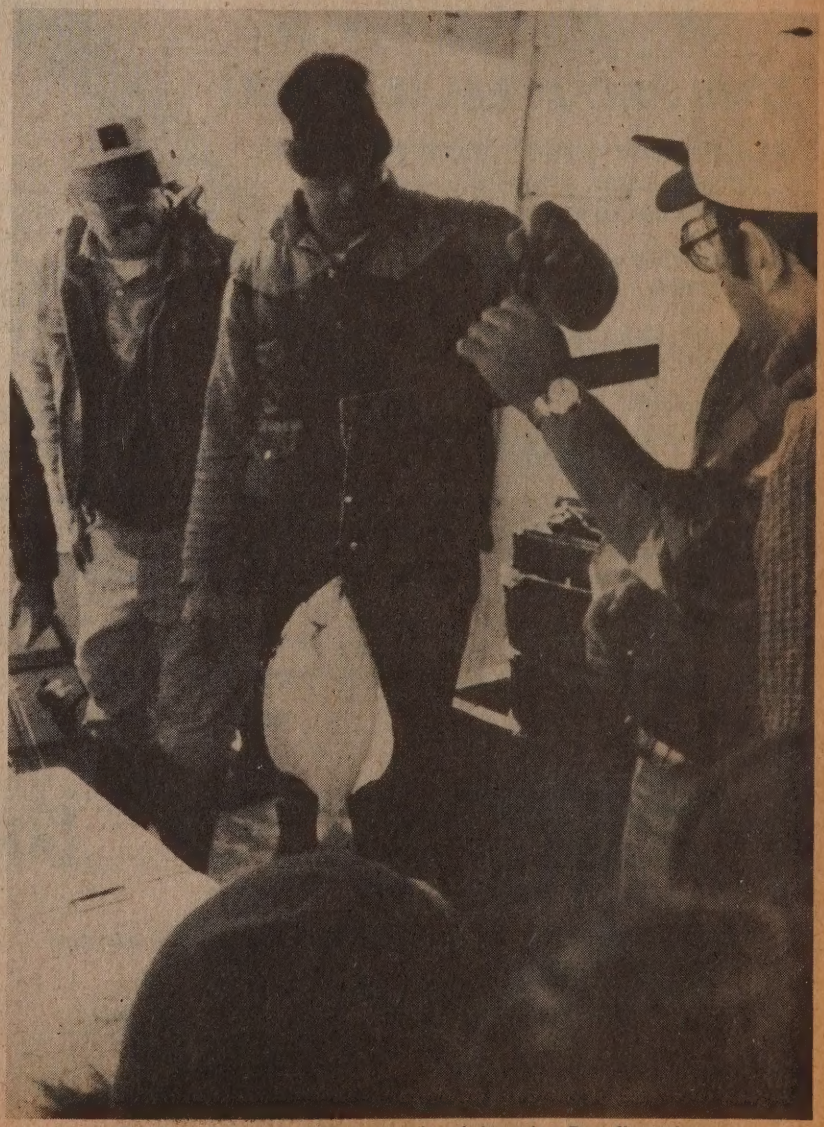
Within a short time, fish began to come over the side. It was slow but steady and the size of the fish amazed me. The average fish was about one pound, with many in the pound-and-a-quarter range and a few large ones near two. The captain called them sea flounders, but they looked exactly like the ones we caught later in the bay.

After awhile the action slowed and as different boats began to move, we upped the anchor and moved down the beach till we were opposite some cabanas. The move produced some more action and it was repeated several times until the tide changed.

Now the captain moved into the bay itself and tried several spots with poor results.

Moving into the bay, we anchored just south of Plumb Beach and within a half mile of the busy Sheepshead Bay docks. The incoming tide was really moving over these flats, but several boats of assorted sizes were already here, and so were the fish. If you dropped a rig down in the tide and jigged it gently, with short lifts, you had a fish on in no time. Unfortunately, this stage of the tide developed close to quitting time, so we had to leave the fish when the whistle blew.

Many catches on the boat were in the twenties, and no one went home without fish. What surprised me was the absence of the many small fish



Settling the pool with a couple of Jamaica Bay flounder.

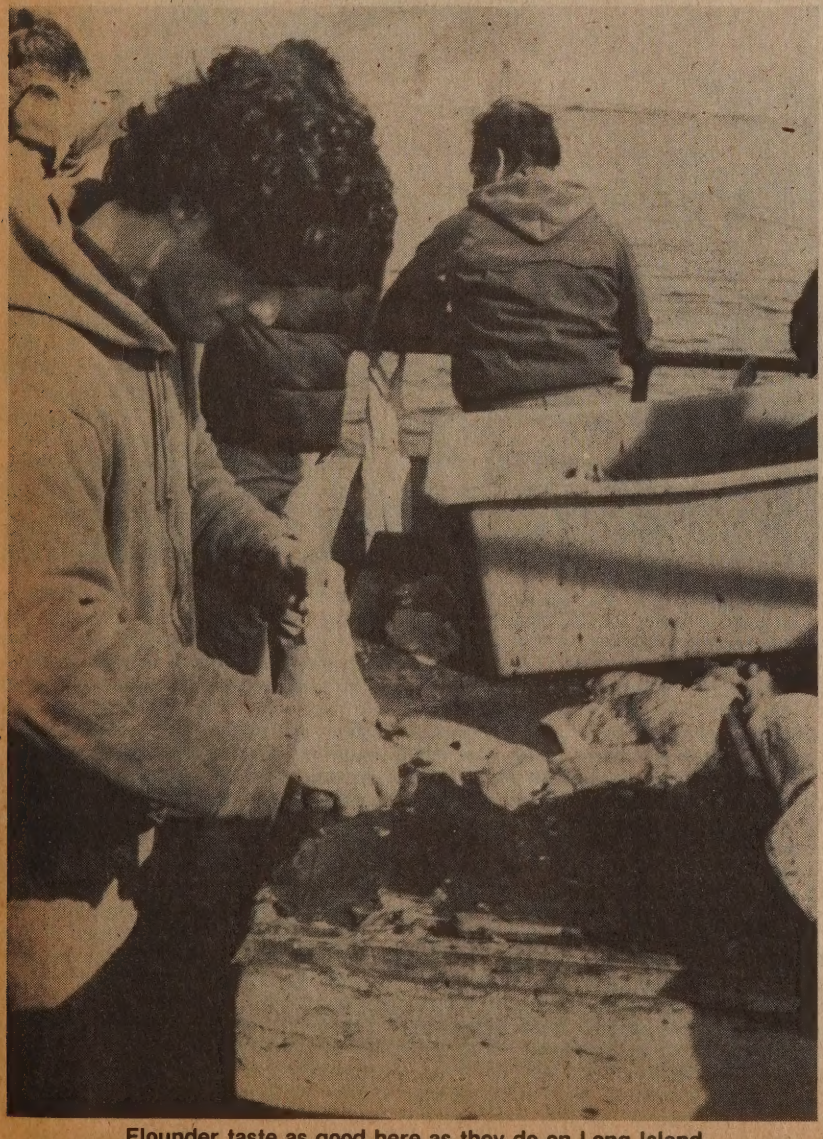
that I have come to expect with my flounder fishing. The smallest fish that I took was a three-quarter pounder.

There is no doubt that I might have taken larger numbers of fish in many places, but to equal the average size would have been unusual.

The results of this trip prompted me to ask around about the local fishing. To my surprise, I found that it could be even better than I had experienced. People came up with names like "Silver Hole," "Pumpkin Patch" and Manhattan Beach, to describe old reliable producers of good flounder action. There are many spots to fish, but relatively few access points.

At one time, Jamaica Bay was a well-known and highly esteemed fishing center. There were rental rowboats available at Rockaway Beach, Broad Channel, Canarsie, Flatbush Avenue, and Sheepshead Bay, as well as party and charter boats leaving from various locations. Fishing for many varieties of fish was excellent, but as pollution increased, the catches decreased. By the time the City had set up sewage disposal plants (which appear to have reversed this decline), many of the boats were no longer available. To the best of my knowledge, the last rowboat rental was Bay End Dock at Sheepshead Bay, and they stopped renting boats about two years ago, although they still function as a marina and outboard repair facility. The only really active fishing centers are now Sheepshead Bay and Tamaqua at Gerritsen Beach. Of course, there are thousands of private boats berthed at various marinas all around the bay, but this does not help the large number of metroplitan area fishermen who could make use of this resource, but do not own a boat. They are now limited to party and charter boats.

In spite of this situation, the fishing has been improving by leaps and bounds. Not only the flounders but fluke, weaks, blues, and stripers have offered fine fishing for those who have the boats to pursue them. Party boats are the least expensive way for the average person to take advantage of this resource.



Flounder taste as good here as they do on Long Island.

Jamaica Bay is a large, island-studded body of water, completely surrounded by the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. It is roughly six miles long from west to east and about two-and-one-half miles from north to south. It opens into the New York Bight at its west end. There are deep channels and holes, shallow flats, marsh islands, and on a clear day—a view of New York's sky-scrapers in the distance. The clear water at the eastern end, near Kennedy Airport, is home to a healthy population of crabs, eels, stripers, and flounders. A large part of the shore line and most of the islands are part of the Gateway National Park complex.

As the first days of spring begin to warm the water, anxious fishermen begin to probe this end of the bay for the first flounder of the year. One well known spot is Silver Hole. It is located east of the south channel bridge, and across the channel from Rockaway. This is one of the places favored by party boats because it usually produces early action. Gradually, the water warms up and the action begins to move to the west. Another good spot is Pumpkin Patch Channel, west of Broad Channel Island. April is usually a very good month, but by the month of May, the bay action is slowing down. At this time, the largest fish seem to be concentrated at the inlet, or around the Tin Can grounds. You will have to search for a party boat that is still fishing flounders in May, because at that time there may be excellent fishing for whiting, ling, mackerel, or blackfish out in the ocean. Very few party boats will even attempt to intercept the fall run because of the other action available at that time.

Sheepshead Bay is available to fishermen using public transportation from anywhere in the City, and it has a large fleet of party boats available. There are boats leaving at various times, plus tackle shops and restaurants across the street from the docks. Tamaqua is near the Knapp Street exit from the Belt Parkway (between Flatbush Avenue and Sheepshead Bay). A short drive up Knapp Street and you will see the large Tamaqua sign on top of the building across the creek to your right. You can park almost anywhere and walk over, or park at the dock if you get there early.

If you belong to a club or lodge of any kind, try to get up a family oriented charter. Flounder fishing is enjoyed by all and the water in the bay is usually calm. Some of the smaller, less elaborate charter boats are very reasonable for a large group. The trip that I went on cost ten dollars per person. This included all the worms, mussels, and skimmer clam that we could use, plus coffee, doughnuts, and pool prizes. It was a success in every sense of the word. If you live in the Big Apple, you might want to sample some of this excellent fishing.

MINI TRAVEL SPECIAL:

QUINCY FOR COD?

by Al Ristori

It's no secret that codfishing south of New England has left much to be desired in recent years. Excessive foreign fishing in the Sixties and early Seventies really put a dent in the population, but all of that changed with passage of the 200-Mile Limit law. There's been such a resurgence of cod in New England waters that prices have plummeted and many commercial vessels are having a hard time making ends meet—even with big catches.

Unfortunately, the area south of Cape Cod hasn't shared quite as liberally in that bonanza—though there have been some very good periods of codfishing to the east. Each of the last several springs there have been times when cod were caught by the bag full off Block Island, and the same thing has applied to some late fishing in December. The summer fishing at Coxes Ledge has picked up tremendously, with Captain Paul Forsberg (of the Montauk "Viking Starship") rating last summer as the best since the Sixties. Unfortunately, the improvement to the west has been much more modest.

Though the cod picture is improving in local waters, the fishing generally leaves something to be desired—and it invariably involves long runs to prime fishing areas, making it unsuitable for most small boaters. Therefore, it's nice to know that a small boat cod bonanza is available within a day's ride—and so early in the season that most anglers aren't even thinking about local fishing.

The place is Quincy, Massachusetts—an area well known to local anglers for its outstanding flounder fishing. Many fishermen from the Metropolitan New York area drive up to Quincy in April, and some clubs even hire buses for the excursion. However, there have been varying reports of late regarding the flounder fishing. Some fishermen hit it right and come back loaded with big flounders; but others just pick away—ending up with a catch that is small in numbers as compared with home waters, and not up to the average size available on Eastern Long Island. Generally these flounder fishermen catch a few small cod and lots of tiny pollack, though few give a thought to the actual cod possibilities of the area. Yet, if Bob Donahue's experiences are any indication, it's the codfishing that Quincy should be famous for!

Bob, a Freeport policeman, made his first Quincy trip for cod only on March 30, 1979. With three people aboard, and fishing in a fog with no recorder, the score was 113 cod from six to fifteen pounds! With that experience in mind, Bob's 1980 March 30 trip was better planned. Two days before leaving, Bob bought three bags of fresh skimmer clams

and shucked them. Half of one bag was cut into small bits and all the juices were saved and frozen overnight in a half-gallon milk container for chum. The other two-and-a-half bags were for bait, each clam being cut into four or five pieces lengthwise, so each piece had part of the belly intact. All of this preparation is important for two reasons. First of all, you can't buy skimmers in Quincy. Second, your fishing time will be limited if you want to trailer a load of cod back home that night; so you don't want to be shucking and cutting clams on a cold morning when you should be fishing.

Bob left Levittown on the night of March 29 with his neighbor Richard Hipp, Richard Hipp, Sr., and Don Daignault. They arrived in Quincy about 7:30 a.m., had breakfast, and stopped at a tackle shop on Quincy Avenue. The proprietor told them that some cod were being caught, but that they'd better hurry out. The tide would change at noon and the fishing would stop after that. Proceeding to the ramp at Weymouth, Bob launched his twenty-two foot Aquasport and set right out for his favorite area—noted on the chart as the Dumping Ground, about three-quarter miles from Hull Gut and a mile-and-a-half from Hurley's Boat Livery.

A white line recorder came in very handy for finding the holes in the Dumping Ground, and they anchored up in sixty-five feet of water with plenty of fish showing on the machine. The frozen chum went down in a chum pot, but their lines were assaulted by small pollack. The chum was probably a mistake, bringing in the hordes of tiny pollack which hit the baits on the way down before the cod had a shot at them. Bob then moved to the shallower flounder areas, but had no luck.

Three hours after the first drop the tide changed, and Bob headed back to the Dumping Ground—despite the tackle shop owner's admonition about the lack of fishing at that time. Back at the same hole, the lines were put down without any chum—and the cod were waiting. In less than three hours, over 300 cod came aboard, and Bob had trouble winching the boat back on the trailer with an extra 1400 pounds aboard!

Though the size of the cod was smaller, the fishing was even better than they'd experienced the previous year. By the time they got ready to go, preserving the cod for the ride home to the freezer was no problem, as a snowstorm was brewing. It was a tough ride home, but the outstanding fishing made it well worthwhile—and Bob will be back again this season!

If you're interested in trying this super codfishing, a few hints from Bob may be in order. He uses a standard hi-lo cod rig with striped bass chumming hooks tied onto ten to twelve inch leaders. Heavy sinkers are a must in the strong tide, and you'll need an assortment from eight to sixteen ounces. Bob prefers short

While this cod is a "lunker" by Quincy standards, there are plenty of them.

bay rods with a tip strong enough to handle the sinker weight. Bring everything you need with you at this time of year. The clams are most important, but also be sure you've got plenty of warm clothing. Though the bay is fishable in bad conditions, it may be wise to check the Quincy weather forecast first by calling Logan Airport (617-567-4670). This is strictly trailer boat fishing in March, as the rowboat stations aren't open as yet.

The ideal way to make this trip is to drive up one day, overnight in a local motel, and then fish the next day, before returning home. Bob's recommendations of local motels include the President Auto Court (617-479-6500) and Holiday Inn (617-961-1000).

If you make the overnight trip to this area, there's one other fishing possibility that may prove interesting to check out. Back in the mid-Sixties, I was covering New England as a manufacturer's representative of fishing tackle. While doing a sportsmens show in Hyannis one April, I was on the receiving end of a pretty wild story about light tackle codfishing from a fellow named Ron Braun. According to Ron, he was catching cod on light casting gear from the shore—at night—and in a river! Since I had to be in Boston just a few days later, I decided to check out this story.

The location is the South River at Marshfield, about thirty miles below Beantown. I found a motel right by the Humarock Bridge and wandered over there after dinner. To my amazement, there were indeed fish swirling on the surface after tiny bait fish. I couldn't make out what they were, but as it was only April, I figured it was too early for stripers. Sure enough, soon after starting to cast a small bucktail jig on my light spinning rig, I thought I had snagged bottom—but the bottom moved. Frisky four to six pound cod were caught in pleasing numbers until the tide started running too strong. Ron arrived just before that stage of the tide and managed to land a couple from the side of the bridge with ultra-light tackle.

It's been well over a decade since I fished the Humarock Bridge, and I have no idea whether the cod still come into the river at night. However, the fishing Bob Donahue has described at Quincy is very contemporary—and anyone interested in getting into some fantastic small boat codfishing should follow-up on that tip this spring!

SOME POINTS ON PICK GAFFS

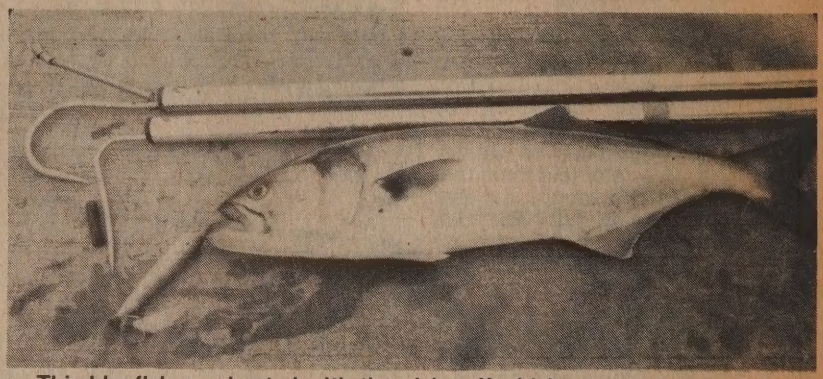
by Charley Soares

While I can now look back and enjoy a good laugh with Russ about the big one that got away, at the time of the incident it put a hell of a lot of strain on our relationship. How would you feel if the biggest fish you had ever hooked was brought to boat and lost?

When we began striper fishing many years ago, limited budgets dictated a minimal amount of tackle. On the day of this notable misadventure, a striper of about fifteen pounds was fooled by one of our tiny plugs and when he came to the boat only the rear treble was stuck in the outside of his bony maw. Without a gaff, Russ had to try to gill the fish which, although very tired, still had enough life to thrash his head. We had not forgotten our gaff—we did not own one—but that was the last trip either of us would make without one of the most essential of angling tools.

There are several types of gaffs employed for inshore and offshore angling, but our discussion will be confined to the conventional and pick (pic) gaffs. It should be remembered this tool does not take the place of the conventional gaff which should be standard equipment on all fishing craft.

I first saw a pick gaff used some twenty years ago off the southwest corner of Block Island. We were into huge schools of wild slashing bluefish in the five to seven pound range: too big to lift aboard and too small for the big bite of the standard gaff on board that day. Every fish, or two or three at the boat was an adventure which frequently became a misadventure of tangled lines and flying plugs. Another boat not far from us was into the same action and I noticed every time a fish came alongside it was lifted into the boat in one deft motion. We finally got close enough to the fisherman to observe he was using what we now refer to as a pick gaff. With one deft motion the fish was struck, the angler's wrist turned and the fish was lifted into the boat and deposited into the fish box where the lure could be retrieved safely. The gaff was also ready for the next fish immediately.

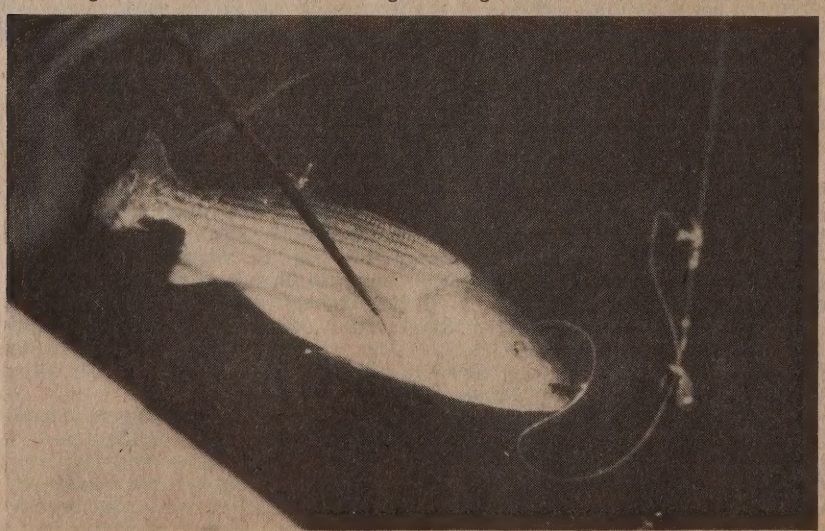


This bluefish was boated with the pick gaff which was stuck just under the pectoral fin (note puncture). The conventional gaff shown above the pick gaff fits completely around the back and stomach area of this size fish. The upper gaff is equipped with a spring type guard while a piece of stiff tubing protects the pick gaff. When using gaffs fitted with spring guards, make sure they do not come into contact with the line.

On the slack tide, the fellow shared his information. He showed us a thirty inch length of hardwood shaft, fitted with a steel rod fashioned into an inverted L-shaped hook whipped to one end. This veteran fisherman told us the homemade gaff had been the present of a summer fishing companion who wintered in the Florida Keys. He had experienced the same problems with small blues, barracuda and the mackerels, which do not have the thick bulk of bass or big tiderunners and the conventional gaffs would invariably find the narrow portion and cradle these fish rather than take a good bite.

The next day I made a search of local tackle dealers without finding such a tool; so I persuaded a metal worker friend to fashion me one with a stainless steel head, which was fastened to a piece of smooth ash. That gaff served me well for many years, as did the Pompanette pick gaffs a dealer finally ordered for me. While a pick gaff serves much the same purpose as a conventional gaff, they require different handling and I am inclined to believe they are more difficult to master.

Pick gaffs are multi-purpose tools. I use my pick gaff to pin a fish by the



This bass presented a much larger target and a conventional gaff was stuck under and upward of its pectoral fin. Blows struck in the area frequently penetrate the heart and fish are not as dangerous when brought aboard.

lower jaw to facilitate removal of the lure and release the fish unharmed. It is also utilized to handle fish from boat to dock and in retrieving articles which fall overboard.

Your reach and the height of your gunnel from the water will determine the length of your gaff handle. My pick gaff has an aluminum shaft with a hard rubber grip. I have removed the grip and inserted foam to keep it afloat should it fall overboard. Gaff handles are made in wood, fiberglass and aluminum. I have whipped marline and other cord on my wooden gaffs to afford me a better purchase, and reglued the grips provided with others.

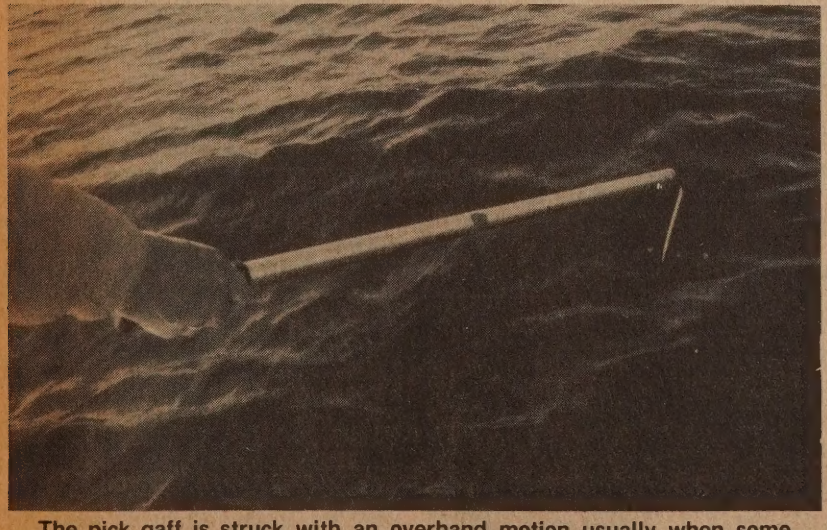
A good steel head holds a better edge longer, but they rust and bleed and for this reason, most gaff heads are made of a good grade stainless steel. Many gaffs come from the factory with a rounded sharp point which appears neat, but is not as effective as a good triangulated edge. Take a good cutting file to your gaff and flatten out the edge on either side as you would a new hook before using it. This type of edge will cut through thick scales, muscle and gill plates providing a good purchase rather than the punctures made by the blunter points which have a nasty habit of collecting scales at the end. Sharp points and edges are dangerous and should be sheathed with a stiff piece of tubing or the spring wire protectors which are sold for this purpose, when they are not in use.

The person using the gaff would do well to work with the angler not to obscure his view of the fish. Don't hang over the side or attempt to chase the fish around the boat. You are more apt to collide with the angler and spook the fish into another run increasing its prospects for escape. Keep the gaff out of sight (I swear I have had bluefish wink at me as they ran past the gaff) and don't get the sharp hook anywhere near the line.

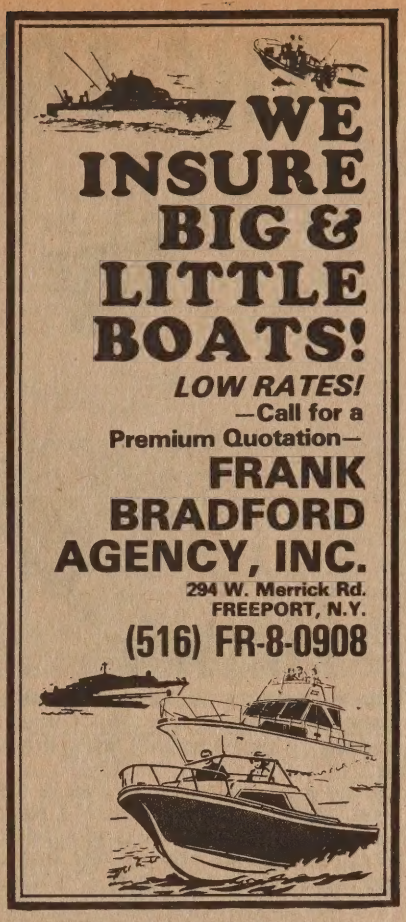
With a conventional gaff the point is placed under or over the back of the fish and the point is struck into the fish in one lifting motion. The pick gaff is struck with an overhand stroke (see photo) and immediately on penetration you must be sure to follow through, twisting your wrist and lifting all in one quick motion. Keep the gaff at ready until the fish makes a pass by the boat (side-to-side is much preferred to head-on as the fish presents more of a target) and aim for a spot just behind the gill covers. I try to set the gaff in the hard muscle part of the fish, but on many occasions the point will penetrate the gill covers necessitating lots of touching up of the gaff point. While it is nice to be able to place the gaff exactly in the desired spot, I will settle for a stomach or tail-gaffed fish (not a shark or fish of similar size) rather than a lost one.

Depending on how green a fish is I like to have some idea where to deposit him in the cockpit. This past summer a fifteen pound blue fell off the gaff before I could get him into the fish well. He began thrashing a big Danny plug against the transom and the fish well, before a hard blow from a "Priest" subdued him. Lively fish in the cockpit can inflict serious wounds. I drove a fellow to a hospital emergency room several years ago after a big bass he dropped on the deck of his boat slammed a big treble hook through his pant leg and into his calf.

Gaffs should be handy, but not in the way. My gaffs are stored under the gunnel in stainless steel spring clips with the points facing down or outboard. Make sure you have a sharp gaff on board your rig and a spare, just in case. Fish are increasingly difficult to come by, so why take a chance on losing one at the boat for lack of equipment.



The pick gaff is struck with an overhand motion usually when some portion of the fish is on or above the surface. The gaff is struck and a short follow through and wrist twist are necessary to prevent fish from falling off. This gaff is equipped with spring stainless steel head and a hard rubber bicycle type grip.



THE TRUTH ABOUT DIAMOND JIGS?

by Capt. John DeMaio

The diamond jig does not imitate the sand eel! Quite a mouthful I know, but stay with me and I'll try to prove it.

The sand eel has given rise to the popularity of the tube. Place a sand eel and a tube alongside one another and the match is perfect. Not that a perfect match is the answer (if it were only that simple), but this FACT will work itself into perspective when I call upon experience for the truth.

Several years back I developed a sand eel jig. It was the first jig to come along in years with a new concept in design. The lure was made to imitate the sand eel, or surgical tube. For years, I watched the charter boats go by my boat hooking on to one bass after another that were feeding on sand eels, while I merely picked away at the fish. My lure was the diamond jig. I attributed my poor performance in the catch column to the different method of fishing. They were trolling with wire line using surgical tubes on umbrella rigs. My approach was stemming the tide or drifting while working my jig. Oh yes, I had my days; but too often I ate my heart out. My sand eel jig changed a good deal of that. In fact, its success was unbelievable. Why? Because it aped the sand eel. Since then, dozens of jig concepts have hit the market. Some have merit, while others are just something else to spend your money on. Check any novice's tackle box and you will find a pile of lures that "look good," but in reality they catch bad.

Only a few years back we had an exceptional run of cod and pollack off Block Island. Since then, a definite accepted rig for the diamond jig and tube has come to be. That is, placing a single tube three feet above the jig. The jig and tube are lowered to the bottom and worked slowly. When the cod and pollack are chasing the sand eels, this rig, properly worked, can really put the hurt on the fish. But what no one seems to take notice of is that **eighty percent** of the fish are taken on the **tube**. This is when they're really snapping. When the fishing is picky, the tube will catch ninety-eight percent. I am so convinced of this, that when fishing cod I now take the HOOKS off the jigs when drifting over rocky bottom where snags occur with regularity. The jigs simply don't catch enough to warrant the hangs. Some charter boat captains have replaced the jigs with sinkers and still achieve results.

Need more proof? Okay. If the jig is so perfect why do we often add a tube to it? That's a simple answer. Because it catches better. You don't even need the jig here; a lead drail will sink the tube and work as well. Once again the tube is doing the work.

By now some of you strong-willed readers with fishing experience are saying, "Hell, I worked my jig in water where I could see the sand eels right on top and I caught plenty of fish." Sure you did! So would a banana peel in a fishing blitz. When fish go into a frenzy they may hit anything that moves. Also, consider this fact that isn't too often thought of: there is a whole cycle of fish eating fish going on under your boat. The sand eel at the beginning and the bluefish on the end. In-between may be whiting, squid, mackerel, and an endless amount of fish that may never be discovered. Chances are that the diamond jig is matching one of these fish—not the eel.

Al Ristori once wrote that the sand eel may be a detriment to our fishing in the long run. His opinion was baded on studies conducted by marine biologists. Al may be right. Present day diamond jig fishing can't compare with what it once was.

This brings us to the question of what came first: the chicken or the egg? Or, the jig catches less because we have less fish or less varieties of bait for the jig to imitate.

Come back with me to the Montauk falls of ten years past and beyond. A diamond jig was a weapon unequaled. The waters teemed with varying baits. From out of the Sound poured a multitude of young fish journeying to the deep waters beyond the Shelf. Porgies, bunkers, squid, sea robins, blowfish, small weaks, whiting, and so on. You name it. It swam by. A jig worked near the bottom guaranteed you a fish. Bass, bluefish, and codfish so thick you took them for granted. If you wanted to catch multiples, a bucktail dropper was the ticket, not a tube. Charter boats trolled yellow-feathered polly heads with green eyes to match the bright eye of the blowfish.

That's all passed now. From time to time a run of baitfish, such as anchovies, may enter our waters in large numbers and give jig fishing a shot in the arm. Remember tinker mackerel? What happened to them? They didn't even show around the marina this year mixed in with the snappers. But that's what it takes to successfully diamond jig fish. Not shad eels! I am not predicting an end to the four-sided diamond jig. It is a perfect lure that will endure forever. Only now it is teamed up more and more with a tube. Remember reader, lures will change as the bait changes. Today's killer may be tomorrow's curio. When was the last time you saw the Japanese feather in use? Sand eels may diminish in numbers and be pushed out by another bait fish. I'm sure a lure to match will be available.

Examine your own fishing experiences a little more closely this season and see if you don't agree with me that "all is not always as it appears."

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Captain Paul Forsberg, Jr., skipper of the **Viking Star** reported the last good day at Cartwright was on Wednesday when fares averaged five to six cod per man. Most of the fish were in the 3 to 8 lb. class. Thursday through Saturday fishing was slow, as strong winds created tough fishing conditions. Sunday's weather was so bad that the **Star** did not sail.

Capt Wayne King of the charter-boat **King Wayne** called to tell us that his boat is presently being given the final sprucing up. He will be sailing one codfish charter out of Freeport this coming weekend and will then take the boat out to Montauk for another season of hopefully red-hot fishing.

Charterboat **Windy** called to tell us that on Monday, he had 62 cod from 3 to 40 lbs., 25 of which were on rod and reel. This was south of Cartwright, at the CIA grounds in 145' of water. Capt Jack Pacci says that the boat is in the water and sailing everyday, weather permitting. He says that if your interested in a cod or pollack charter, call now, as the spring cod seems to have broken open.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Hank of **Altenkirch's Bait and Tackle** said that the flounder action in the canal remains good. He reminded that while some anglers do a real job on the fish, others manage just a few. He noted too that the fish appeared to be smaller this past week. Clams, worms and mussels have all been accounting for the fish. The canal was one of the few places that was fishable in this weekend's wind.

The **Capt Clark** called and asked us to remind you of his new location at the Montauk Hwy Bridge on Shinnecock Canal just a stone's throw from Altenkirch Tackle and Hobby Land Marine

MORICHES BAY

Larry at **L&M Fishing Station** reports that several of his rental boats got out over the weekend, mostly Sunday, and did very well. Flounder continue strong in Quogue Canal on sand and blood worms and mussel chum. Vinnie Stemple, Phil Majuk, and Joe Licari of Ridgewood packed in 150 keepers with an equal number of throwbacks from buoy 52 and 7A.

From **Hi-Way Fishing Station**, Curt said that boats did well late last week. One in particular totalled 110 flatties fishing the area east of buoy 44. Most of the fish had averaged from 1/2 to 1 lb., although the biggest fish checked in at the station so far this season was a hefty 2½ lber. Worms and plenty of mussel chum have been accounting for the best scores. Saturday and Sunday's action was non-existent due to gale winds on both days.

Jim reported from **Skidmore's Fishing Station** that Saturday was a total loss, while on Sunday only two boats left the station. Despite very difficult conditions, one of the skiffs returned with between 50 and 60 nice flounder taken at "ace in the hole." The second boat fished the same area, but did poorly as they lacked the necessary chum. Tape, sand and blood worms, as well as dyed clams have all been effective baits and clam or mussel chum is important.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station tells us that prior to the weekend and its strong winds decent catches of flounder wer made at buoy 17, fish from ¾ to 1 lb. Boats averaged 30 to 40 keepers with outgoing tide working best.

OAKDALE

Speaking from **J&R Sports Center**, Dave reported little news on the saltwater front due to the weekend's gale force winds. Freshwater fans should be interested in the 25", 6½ lb. brown trout taken by Neil Slueter last week in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot River. Dave said there are plenty of small trout being taken in Bubbles and Rattlesnake with an occasional 18 to 20 incher to spice the fishing.

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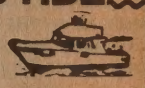

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EAST ISLIP

Newly opened **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** relayed word of a catch of 21 flounder, made by James Learner and John Bloomquist of Islip. The fish were taken on clams and worms in Great South Bay and ranged up to 2 lbs.

BAY SHORE

Capt Neil of the **Casey Lee** tells us that flounders were excellent on Friday prior to the winds, with an average of 7 to 25 keepers a man. The boat fished between Bay Shore and Islip. Saturday's fishing was poor due to the gale force winds, but Sunday bounced back and fishing was fair even though the water remained dirty from the previous days blow. The boat saw 140 keepers landed Sunday. Worm and clam bait work best on the flood. Sizes were decent with fish running from 1 to 1¼ lbs. Pool fish have been usually running close to 2 lbs. Neil reports that his Captree charter boat **Lady Ann** is presently being readied for the season and he will be sailing his first trip at the end of March.

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** Carl Miller said that weekend fishing was real tough due to gale force winds. Despite this, some flatties were taken in West Channel and at Bayberry Point. Don Fuchs had a 1¾ lb. flounder among his catch on Sunday. Most productive baits have been worms, mussels and clams, according to Carl. Fishing in the Bay had been good right up until the weekend's gusty weather.

CAPTREE

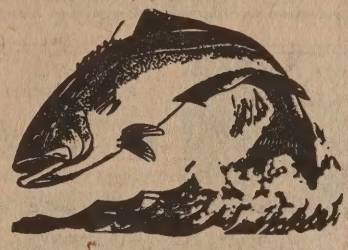
Captain Rod of the open boat of the same name said that the wind wreaked havoc with the entire fleet on Saturday. Sunday was not much better, although there was some fair fishing found by several of the boats during the afternoon. Action during the week, however, was good with quite a few fish taken between Heckscher and Bay Shore on clams, mussels and worms. Some of the flatties ranged up to 1½ lbs.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Captain Bob Joseph** also noted that Saturday was a complete loss. Of Sunday's action, the skipper said that while the day started off poorly it did wind up okay. Catches ranged anywhere from 5 to Robert Pace's high hook catch of 19 flatties. Very few throwbacks with most of the fish good sized and the pool fish generally running in the 1½ to 2 lb. class. Charlie fished the Heckscher area and felt that mussels provided the best action.

The open boat **Capt. Whittaker** reported that after chalking up Saturday to unfishable conditions, Sunday's action wound up being a drastic improvement with quite a few fares finishing up with about 10 fish per man. While the fishing was best on the afternoon's first part of the flood, the skipper labeled the fishing in general as picky Sunday.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** Ski Kochanski spoke of plenty of fish taken between Heckscher and Bay Shore last week. The weekend, however, was another story due to gale force winds on both days. One of the local charter boats put away 150 flatties for a party of nine on Wednesday and Jack Uhland put away 30 flatties up to 1½ lbs. fishing from his small outboard on Friday. Worms and dyed clams appear to be taking most of the fish and mussel chum seems to improve catches.



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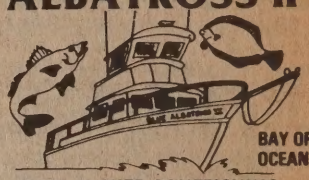

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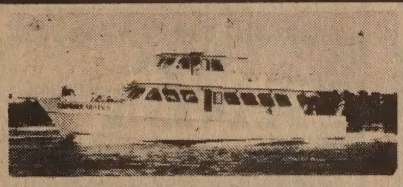

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LINDENHURST

John of **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** spoke of a decent showing of flatties off of the Babylon pool and Good Samaritan Hospital prior to the weekend's windy weather. Action was good during the week, but John had no reports to pass along from either Saturday or Sunday. Worms and clams were taking fish last week.

SEAFORD

Pop's Fishing Station tells us that on Sunday 3 Brooklyn anglers in one boat came back with 25 good keepers fishing the east side of the Wantagh Bridges with red dyed clams, mussels and worms with lots of chumming necessary. They told John that they had lots of bites all day long and lost a lot of fish as the flatties were being very picky in their feeding. The keepers ran from 1¼ to 1¾ lbs. and the ebb was best.

Capt Brian of the open boat **Chinco** will begin flounder fishing Saturday, March 21. The boat will be fishing weekends only for now. The skipper will advise as to when he is going on an everyday schedule. He says there is plenty of room so come on down.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle tells us that fair scattered catches of flounder are being made in many spots in Merrick Bay, particularly the deeper holes. Scott advises that chumming is a must.

BALDWIN

Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** says that some flounders continue to be taken in Middle Bay and in Scow Creek with boats getting their fish mainly from the deeper holes. Lots of flounders are also being caught from the shoreline off Boces in Middle Bay. Clams, worms and mussels are all working well on any moving water.

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FREEPORT

Capt Billy Lindroth running the **Capt Al** tells us that on Monday, Fred Hornsby of WINS and his Dad Rodger had 40 keeper flounders between them going up to 2 lbs. 2 oz. On Wednesday's trip high hook was 20 flounder for Freeport angler John Jetsen. On Friday Brooklyn angler Young-Kun Yoo had 23 flounders. Alan Miranne of Manhasset pulled 19 keeper flatties while Joe Lagana of Franklikn Sq. packed a way 22 flounders. Friday's trip was at Squaw Island and fish averaged ¾ of a lb. Saturday's fishing was poor due to the wind. On Sunday's trip Roosevelt Rodgers decked 24 keepers fishing Baldwin and Middle Bays. On the same trip John Reina of Valley Stream managed 18 flounders. All other fares averaged 10 to 18 flatties. Bill says that his half-day boat the **Capt Bill** is all painted and shipshape for the 81 season and will begin his half-day flounder trips starting the last weekend in March.

Capt Walt of the **Acme II** called to say that Saturdays are going fast and Sundays will be peeling off rapidly and advises that you book early this year. Walt will be accepting half-day charters he says, during April, May and June for flounder or fluke. He is reserving Monday-Thursday evenings for "special occasion" type charters.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that on Sunday 72 keeper flounders were taken by Bob Sehleicher, John Meenan and George Lapinski and Brian Fulmer, all of Queens Vil. and all in one rental skiff. This was on worms and mussels with the hot area being in the flats and surrounding areas across from the station. Outgoing tide was best.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** was enthused about his completely remodeled shop and his expanded stock of fishing equipment. "Now if only the weather would cooperate," said Charlie. He described the flounder action during the week as good, when he looked over several catches of fish in the 3/4 to 1½ lb. range. As everywhere else, however, the wind wiped out Saturday and Sunday's fishing. Charlie did know that anglers working the bank in

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Tony DiPiro, Brian Mallozzi, Mathew Vara, Louis Schneider and Mario Malave returned to L&M Marine in East Moriches with 179 flounder and 19 tommy cod. The group fished buoys 54 and 7A in the Quogue Canal with sandworms, bloodworms and dyed clams. They chummed with cat food and corn. Biggest flattie was a two pounder.

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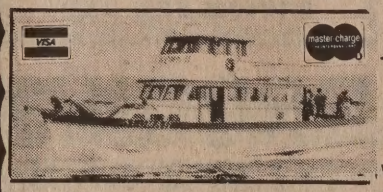

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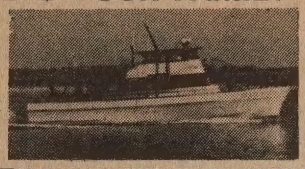

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East Rockaway's Bay Park area have been making some fine catches of flatties. Charlie also knew of some anglers who scored with fish at the Magnolia Pier. Charlie noted that for boatmen mussel chum is a must for the better catches.

LONG BEACH

From the **Long Beach Sports Marina**, Bernie Haag labeled the weekend a total blowout. Reaching back to last week, he spoke of a catch of 42 flounder up to 1½ lbs. made behind Hicks Beach by Ed Folk and John Sebastian, both of Flushing. The pair used mussels and worms for bait and surprisingly made this fine catch without the use of chum. Bernie also spoke of Bob King who made a few visits to the Magnolia Pier last week, each time taking several nice flounder on worm and mussel bait.

JAMAICA BAY

Word from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** was of good flounder action at both the north and south channel bridges on worms and mussels. Catches during the week ranged as high as 27 flatties up to 1½ lbs. in weight.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported excellent flounder fishing until the high winds hit on the weekend. During all of last week catches ranged from one to two dozen fish per person with high hooks taking up to 35 nice sized keepers. These fish ran from 1/2 to 1½ lbs., with occasional two pounders being taken from the Shrewsbury River. With strong winds on the weekend, the boat was forced to fish the calmer Navesink River where some nice fish were taken. These fish were smaller in size but still very plentiful. Best bet for baits are worms and mussels.

Captain Buth of the **New Zephyr** told of generally good fishing with the blow on the weekend slowing catches. On Saturday the fishing was good in the Navesink River despite the winds and nice catches of 1/2 to 1½ lb. flounder were taken. On Sunday, the boat fished local in the Rockaway Beach/Jamaica Bay area and fishermen were rewarded with catches of

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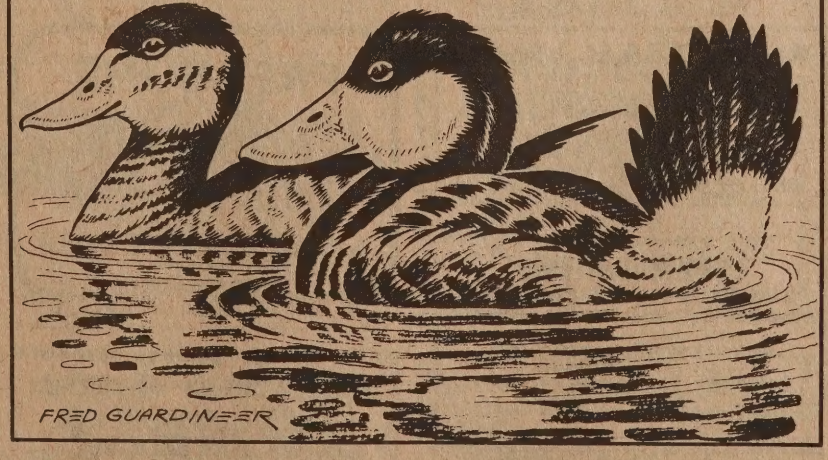

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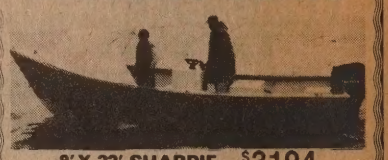

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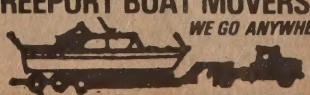

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FISH TALK:

(Continued from page 10.)

age land-based fishing and nearby inshore fishing are highly desirable.

LIKEWISE. Sean Rode of Woodhaven shared a similar concern. "You must help! We need an artificial fishing reef in Jamaica Bay in addition to the one at Floyd Bennett Field. That reef was sort of an accident and the reef resulted from a barge that sunk. An article in the November 15, 1979 issue of The Long Island Fisherman discussed the use of concrete blocks to make reefs inshore. Perhaps some of these could be put in the water at Roxberry where the water is deep and clean." We sympathize with you, Sean. Many fishermen have found that it is harder and harder to make good catches in otherwise clean inshore waters. The fact that artificial fishing reefs could improve the fishing whets the appetite and thus many anglers are eager to have reefs built close to home. The decision to commit to the construction of more artificial reefs is the first step and that will take the help of the state, local, and the Federal Government. I think that recreational fishermen in the area should contact their state Assemblymen and Senators and urge that they introduce legislation that will begin reef construction projects. The names and addresses of your legislative representatives can be acquired by calling your local League of Women Voters. Their phone number is in the book. We have also been at work to try and secure proper support for the construction of all three: piers, launch ramps, and reefs; but the active involvement of our readers is most important, too.

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To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

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PACEMAKER '77 26' F.G. Express Cruiser, 220 Crusader. Full galley; sleeps 4. Stand-up head and vanity. All canvas; much more. $15,000. After 6PM. 212-474-6422.

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1974 BERTRAM 31' FB Cruiser. Twin Mercruiser. Low hours. LOADED. All in mint condition. Serious buyers only. Days: 212-358-1114. Eves. 516-669-8532.

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2-$274; 4-$420; 4.5-$470; 7.5-$622; 9.9-$800; 15-$900; 25-$1060; 35-$1190; 55-$1628; 50-$1748; 60-$1900; 70-$2100; 85-$2395; 115-$2595; 140-$2695; 150-$3300; 175-$3500; 200-$3600; 235-$3800. ELECTRA MARINA, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

BOSTON WHALER, 17'. Full canvas; extras. 70 h.p. Evinrude, 1974, like new; galvanized trailer, 1977; like new. Power winch. $3700. 516-689-9344 From 5 to 8.

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SEA-OX 20' & 23' Walkaround Cuddy. Avail. inboard or outboard; 17'-23' models avail. Center console or comm'l. Also N.Y.'s exclusive Phoenix Dealer. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, 23 River Rd., Sayville, N.Y. 516-567-3313.

1976 20' MAKO 115 Evinrude 1979 E-Z Load trailer, S/ST Top; CB, VHF, C-Temp Hailer. Si-Tex 256A and flasher. Mint condition. Many extras. Asking $7700. Call Days: 212-699-4321.

33' CONCORD BRIGANTINE. A fiberglass beauty with every conceiveable extra. Recent 350 h.p. Mercruisers & 6½ k.v. Onan generator. Super for family that enjoys fishing. BEST OFFER. Call 516-374-5754 Eves.

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Regal 244XL 1979 24' cuddy cabin. Loaded. Full electronics. Owner being transferred. Asking $12,500. Call after 6PM. 516-928-4694.

BERTRAM 25' Sport Convertible. Twin 140 MerCruiser 1979; radio, tilt drives, depth finder, instruments and canvas. All new in '79. $12,095. 516-979-8122.

1981 STARCRAFT SALE 1981
12' through 21' aluminum skiffs & center consoles in stock for demonstration & immediate delivery. We will not be undersold. Auth. Evinrude sales & service. Financing arranged. Dave Bofill Marine, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

1981 JOHNSONS: 35-$1269; 50-$1908; 60-$2199; 70-$2298; 90-$2646; 115-$2808; 140-$3312; 150-$3646; 175-$3857; 200-$3940; 235-$4138. FOB. Call for low, low prices on Mercruiser, OMC, Volvo I/O repower units. Installation available. R.C. Center Marine, 652 Montauk Hwy., Center Moriches. 516-878-2698.

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GRADY WHITE '77 Chesapeake 21', OMC 175 I/O; VHF/DF. Extras. Yard maintained. 212-225-4191.

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27' CONCORDE Fiberglass Sportfisherman. Twin FWC Mercruiser Inboards. Tuna tower; full electronics, including Loran C. Excellent equipment and condition. Fisherman's dream. 516-825-2222.

26' Fiberglas Clam Boat, 1979, 140 h.p. Merc. All accessories and depth recorder included. Excellent condition. $3500. Call: 516-581-2380.

23' '77 Mako, 255 h.p. Merc.; 26' '77 Pacemaker FB, SF, 220 Crusader FWC; 31' '74 Bertram FB, SF T350s FWC. Loaded; 36' '74 Chris Craft FB, SF T300s FWC; 38' '73 Egg Harbor FB, SF, T330s FWC. Loaded; 40' '78 Ocean FB, SF, T GM671 diesels. Loaded. PORT YACHT SALES, INC. Offices at Capri Marina, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050; 516-883-4073 and 101 Surf Ave., Port Jefferson, N.Y.; 516-928-6840.

1978 WELLCRAFT V-20 175 h.p. Johnson Power trim/tilt; SST. Very fast 50 mph + and very economical. Custom rigged for offshore. Dual batteries; tach., VHF radio, compass, spare prop. Lowrance depth finder with alarm. Lowrance white line chart recorder; insulated fish box with cushion. Fuel/water separator. Two bilge pumps. Extra cleats; winter canvas. $8450. 516-669-8982 Eves.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT 23' Tournament Fisherman. Excellent condition; 200 h.p. inboard. Lots of extras. $8800. Call 212-697-3599 Weekday eves after 6PM.

1967 Dorset Calif. Sptfish. All fiberglass; FB & Bimini; VHF. Ross recorder. Much more. Twin crusaders; FWC. Mint condition; one owner. Eves. 212-680-3857.

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1980 PROLINE 17' Center Console. Fisherman's delight; w/85 Johnson TNT. Includes: Bimini top, custom canvas, pole holders. Used less than 15 hrs. Bonus—if purchased before April 1 will include SST prop. and Raytheon depth flasher recorder. Full pkg. cost over $7500. Will sell—$5300. Eves. 516-585-1778.

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GRADY-WHITE 22' Bimini: trailerable family fish; 2 lg. fish boxes & 2 insul. ice boxes; both with overboard drains. Two aft bait boxes. Big 75 sq. ft. self-bailing cockpit. Factory auth. Johnson & OMC parts & repairs. Spring tune-up, moorings, storage, financing. Also, see the PRIVATEER - low cost center console for laymen and serious fishermen. Eddie's Marine, est. 1940, in Lawrence at Atlantic Beach Bridge, on Reynolds Channel. 212-327-3168.

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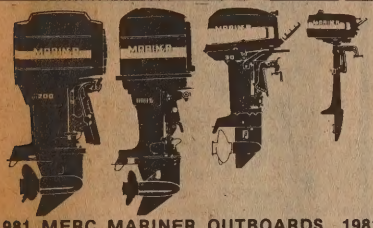
28' LUHRS, Lapstrake, F.B. 1979 Flagship eng. Sleeps 5; beautiful galley with stove, sink, refrig., etc. Fully carpeted; no outlets; camper tops. Elec. anchor; teak swim platform. Full legal head/sink. All instruments; yard maintained. Perfect for living aboard and fishing. Must sell. Leaving county. Exc. cond. $4000 FIRM. 212-699-4520.



1981 MERC MARINER OUTBOARDS. 1981 Quicksilver accessories also available. 2-$269; 4-$430; 5-$550; 8-$640; 9.9-$810; 15-$890; 25-$1080; 30-$1140; 40-$1250; 50-$1695; 60-$2010; 70-$2125; 80-$2305; 90-$2450; 115-$2615; 150-$3380; 175-$3580; 200-$3660. F.O.B. Shipping arranged. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909, Essex County, NJ or 201-584-2498, Morris County, NJ.

1979 SEA RAY 24' cuddy, 260 OMC, s/s prop., s/s water pump. Si-Tex recorder, sonar D/F, CB. Full canvas; head, swim platform. Excellent fishing and family boat. $13,500 or I will take as partial payment a 21' to 25' center console. 799-8368.

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GRADY WHITE 1979 24' Weekend. 260 I/O, OMC. Compass, depth finder, VHF. Low hrs. Like new. $14,200 FIRM. Days: 914-478-2990. Nights: 212-359-6021. Ask for Tony.

1972 JOHN ALLMAND 23', Flybridge Ticonderoga, dual stations. New Morse controls; Si-Tex flasher and recorder; custom winter top and canvas; VHS, CB, 500' 3/8 nylon line, 400 hrs. total time. Professionally maintained and in excellent condition. $6450. 516-764-4557 after 6PM. 212-274-9000 Days.

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22' 6" ANACAPRI Fiberglass w/165 Mercruiser 1968 VHF Radio depth recorder. Compass, spare prop.; bilge pump, covers. New seat. FIRM $3500. 212-627-7150.

24' SEA RAY New 225 OMC; rebuilt outdrive, VHF, CB, CFR, swim platform. Head, auto. anchor. Sleeps 4. Ask: $10,800. Days: 233-5148. Evenings 286-0059. Ask for Mr. G.

CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS 22' Center Console 283 FWC. Fast and economical outriggers; CB, compass, spare prop. Depth finder, fuel/water separator; auto. bilge pump. Deep keel. Good for offshore and inlet fishing. Mint condition. $4200. 585-1563.

SHAMROCK 25' 9". Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20', all models in stock. New 1981s now in. ROVINA, 516-728-0922.

1972 COBIA 17' 50 h.p. Johnson. Teleflex steering; I/O carpet; walk-thru windshield. New 6 gal. gas tank. Asking $1500. 516-741-8629 Eves.

Chrysler Outboards. Repairs & parts. New 75 h.p. $1785. 55 h.p. $1475. In stock only. Village Marine, Mattituck, NY. 516-293-5800.

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BOAT TRAILER REPAIRS: Complete with all new galvanized parts & a complete line of top quality Marine Supplies at discount prices. FAZIO Mfg. Inc., 87 Arlington Ave., St. James, N.Y. 11780. 516-265-3036.

FOR SALE: Ross Depth Recorder, Model 300 SLB. Good condition. $300. 212-979-1970.

Loran C by Mieco. Automatic tracking, model 6811 w/sun visor. Perfect condition. $400. Capt. Garry, 516-968-8969.

COMPLETE TUNING of your VHF radio may solve poor performance problems. If yours hasn't been looked at in over a year, have it bench-checked (no charge when technician is in) at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. 516-581-0194.

Discount prices on Evinrude and Johnson outboard accessories. Send for price list. BURCK, INC., 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464. 212-885-1559.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

Mooring Anchor: 400 lb. Navy anchor, $50; bronze props: 22x26-1½ right; 21x20-1½ right. Bronze shaft: 1½" x 10 ft. - $50 each. 516-261-8317.

100% Stainless Steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpits. Custom & Standard products available. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Marine catalog $1.

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SPECIAL OFFER—3 hand-tied proven killer flounder or blackfish rigs for only $1.75. Write for rigs or free catalog. RELIABLE FISHING TACKLE, P.O. Box 195, Rockaway Park, 11694.

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BUCKTAILS. Hand-tied. Top quality. Bugeye design for Del. Bay trout. $9.50 dozen. Wilmington, Del. and Media, Pa. 302-994-0729; 215-565-1983.

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Glow rig (Luminescent)—designed to catch whiting by the sack. Send $1.25 and also receive free catalog. HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. IG, Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the meat fisherman. Special design and construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made, finest quality material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566.

Catch more fish...with super designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, N.J. 07032.

St. Croix, America's fishing rod manufacturer for over 30 yrs. offers an "ANGLER'S ANTHOLOGY" combined with a mini-catalog of St. Croix products. This 36-pg. booklet contains hundreds of facts and tips about all types of fishing equipment and instructions as to their usage. Send $1.50 for booklet and receive a free St. Croix Shoulder Patch. ST. CROIX OF PARK FALLS, LTD., P.O. Box 279, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552.

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MISCELLANEOUS

OPPORTUNITY for fully licensed captain, with or without boat, to run charter or open fishing operation out of well-established Fire Island Inlet Marina. Please indicate operating expenses, experience, etc. P.O. Box 922, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570.

FISHERMAN'S LOG: record your fishing trips on beautiful, pre-printed fishing log. Contains: Trip #, Date, Crew, Fishing Area, weather/wind; water condition, water temp.; fished-for, fish caught and remarks. 8½x11 loose leaf sheets. Fits 2 or 3 hole binders. Choice of striped bass or bluefish background. 100 sheets $3.98 + $1 post. & handling. Send check or money order to: T. Spinelli, RD #5, Box 292, Jackson, NJ 08527.

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The finest selection of fisherman's knives available. Send $1 for "The Anglers Catalog of Knives." MI-DE-SU PRODUCTS, 67 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801.

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Continued On Next Page

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MATE Wanted—Experienced. For weekends and some weekdays. On Freeport charter boat. Days: 516-378-4838. Eves: 516-379-7614.

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FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Heavy, solid metal buckles in handsome, antiqued finish. Your choice of striped bass, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke, flounder, shark, harpoon dart. Hundreds sold. Money back within 7 days if not satisfied! Send ck or M.O. for $7 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. Also available: striper pin $7; striper medal $9.95.

Stainless steel 6' commercial freezer. A-1 cond. $600. Also Coca-Cola ice chest, 6' long for drinks or groceries. Make offer. 516-MO 1-2764.

PACIFIC SAILFISH MOUNT: 8½' of commanding, attention-grabbing splendor! Two-years-old, great for office or restaurant. $350. 516-499-2288.

Join the Blue Fin Dock. Prime Freeport location. Dock space for 6 man or dive boat, 20'-60'. Call 516 or 212-352-2986.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk. 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. Paul Krause, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. 11795. 516-587-7837.

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1964 FORD Step Van. (Alum.] Camper - stove, potty, sink and water tank. 1200 x 15 tires. Beach driveable, excellent mileage. Extras. Evenings. 516-582-4872. $2100. Firm.

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Station business & equip. for sale. $8500 pays all. Land lease available. Low rent; immed. takeover. Call 516-363-6024 after 6PM.

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Send $7. ck. or M.O. to:
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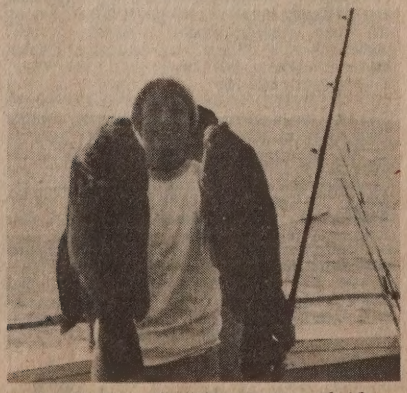

Ira Kitograd with a brace of 10 lb. plus blackfish taken last fall at Orient Point on a trip aboard the Nancy Ann.

up to a dozen fish in the 1/2 to 1½ lb. range. Sandworms did the trick with mussels taking the bigger fish.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

HUNTINGTON

Capt Bill "Packy" Collins of the **Ever Ready** called to say that he will resume sailing next week, with the first trip being March 28th. The boat will be sailing weekends only, at 8 a.m.

GLEN COVE

Capt Joe of the **Lady Lil II** informs us that he is starting to sail this week for flounder. Joe says the good news is that he has heard of good flounder catches being made at Oak Neck and the Bayville beaches, mostly decent fish from ½ to 1½ lbs.

CITY ISLAND

Jack of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** said that the wind has kept him from allowing any of his rental skiffs to sail, but shore casters have been doing very well with the flounder in Orchard Beach lagoon. Sand worms have been accounting for good catches of flatties in the 1/2 to 1 lb. class. One caster stopped by to show off a catch of 20 nice fish made at this location one day last week. Jack also knew that the open boat **North Star** did well despite the wind Saturday and Sunday fishing in the sheltered confines of Oyster Bay.

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FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

Capt John Raines of the charterboat **Blue Albatross** called to say that he is about ready to splash the boat into the water for the season and looks forward to another solid season of outeast fishing. John says to give him a call. See ad for details.

SOUTHOLD

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tells us that he hears from local residents that good flounder catches are being made in Orient Harbor and Gull Pond which is on the west side of the Oyster Factory, best catches in the shallow water. Ace will have boats in the water by the time you read this report. He has also heard of flounders caught this past week in the North Race at Robins Island.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Marty's Fishing Station tells us that he will be officially open by the weekend with boats in the water and bait and chum on hand.

THREE MILE HARBOR

The word from **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** was that all indications for the upcoming season point to as good a flatfish season as last spring's run which was the best in several years. Opening day for the station will be Wednesday, March 18 and please note that boats are available by reservation only for those looking to make the trip out. The number is 516-324-1977.

NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 9.)

the Federal Government would take the logical step of including all species in the coverage of our 200-mile limit. The special interests of the West Coast long distance tuna fleet shouldn't be allowed to dictate U.S. policy and contribute to the decline of a valuable American resource. Unfortunately, I suspect the big money tuna interests will have as much influence in this Administration as they obviously did in the last. Our major hope in resolving this situation may be the prospect of tougher negotiating on trade matters with the Japanese, which has been all but promised by the Administration.

Good Winter Reading

Some fine winter reading has come across my desk recently. "Field & Stream" is celebrating its 85th year by publishing a special 226-page March anniversary issue filled with some of the finest outdoor writing over the years. Included are such famous writers as Ernest Hemingway, Zane Grey, and Robert Ruark, as well as famous personalities like Cecil B. DeMille and Teddy Roosevelt. From CBS Special Publications comes three "Field & Stream" annuals: the "Fishing Tackle & Accessories Buying Guide" edited by Yours Truly, and the "Bass Annual" and "Fishing Annual"—both edited by Glenn Sapir.

Among the many articles worth checking out in the "Field & Stream Fishing Annual" are Jack Fallon's surf piece, Jim Bashline's description of shad fishing, and Ken Schultz' special section on monofilament.

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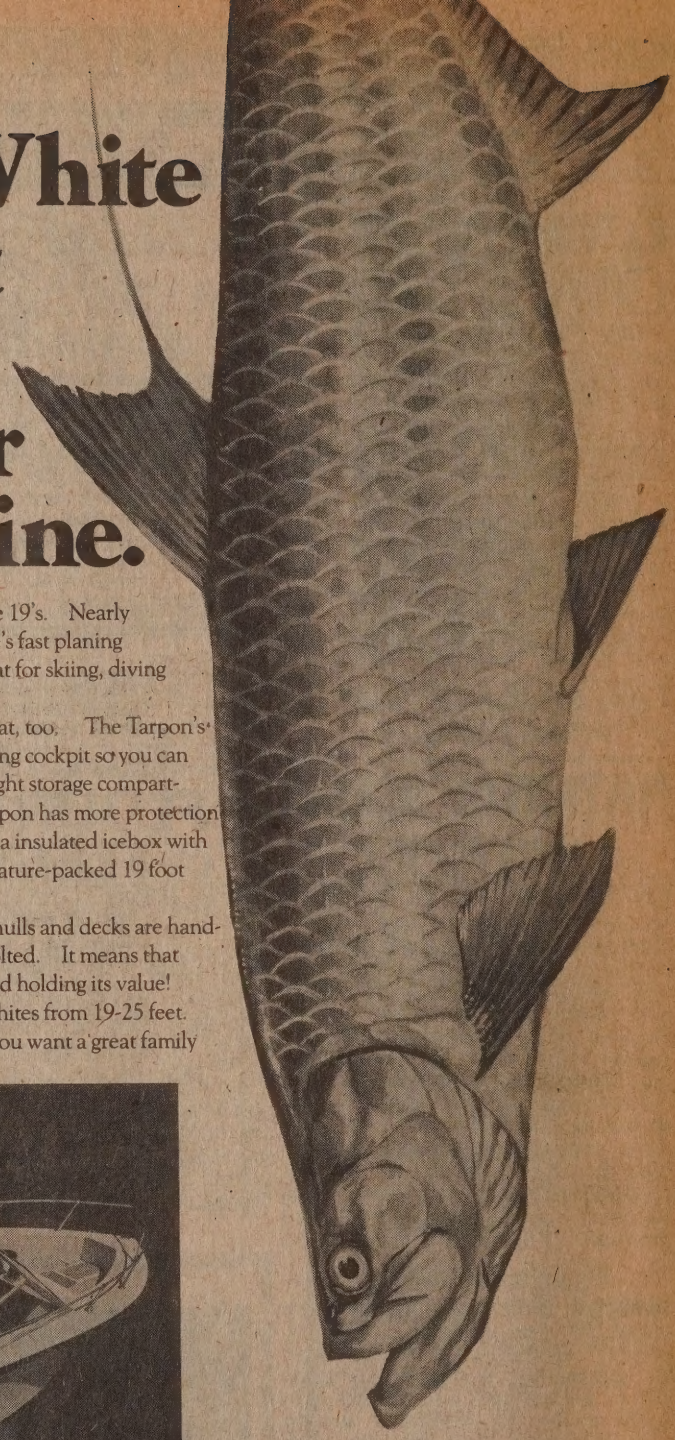

There aren't any better family boats than the Grady-White 19's. Nearly 8 feet of beam, lots of out-of-the-way storage and Grady-White's fast planing "Vee-Lift" hull makes them roomy, economical runabouts; great for skiing, diving or picnicking.

But Grady-White's Tarpon, pictured below, is a fishing boat, too. The Tarpon's dual console design gives you nearly 75 square feet of self-bailing cockpit so you can fight fish all around the boat. There are side rod racks and eight storage compartments. And with a windshield, top and side curtains, the Tarpon has more protection than center consoles. There's a removable floor fish well, and a insulated icebox with overboard drain. In short, you won't find a roomier, more feature-packed 19 foot fishing machine than the Grady-White Tarpon.

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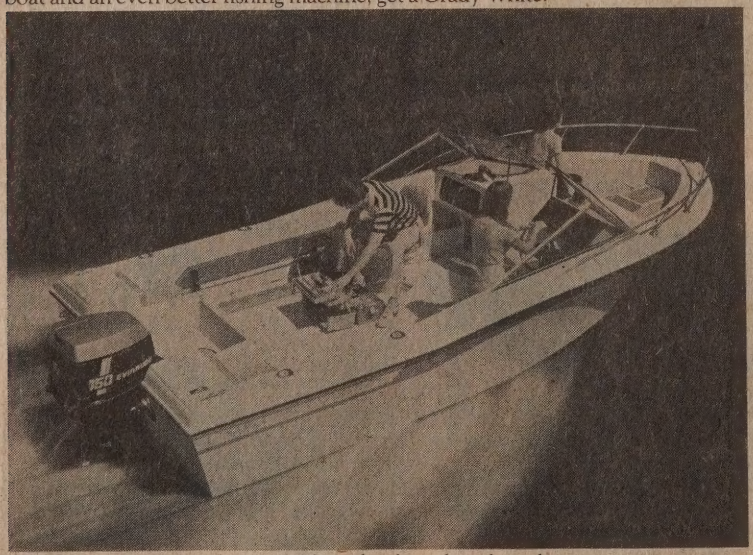
So take a look at the Tarpon, or any of the other Grady-Whites from 19-25 feet. Call 1-800-447-4700 for the name of your nearest dealer. If you want a great family boat and an even better fishing machine, get a Grady-White.



The 19 foot Tarpon is also available with inboard/outboard power.

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